Gilead Presbyterian Church May 2, 2021; 5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, ability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

WELCOME

OPENING MUSIC "Break Thou the Bread of Life" by William F. Sherwin

Mary Temple, organ arr. by Betty Jean Chatham

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING INTO COMMUNITY

Leader: We gather to praise and worship God, People: the one who created us for love.
Leader: We gather to worship the true vine,
People: the one in whose love we abide.
Leader: Easter people, Christ is risen!
People: Christ is risen indeed!

BLUE HYMNAL #438 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

- 1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love: The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.
- 2. Before our Maker's throne We pour our ardent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.
- 4. From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free; And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.

PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART Sharing A Smile, words by Nicki Kramer, pictures by Ashley Evans

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of God said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8

¹"I am the true vine, and my Abba God is the vinegrower ² who removes every branch in me that bears no fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to yield still more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is cast aside like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Abba God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



Crape Myrtles





Wesley's Beech

Spiritual arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

For those joining virtually, all are invited to partake of bread and wine, or any substance that feels appropriate, or prayerfully take in the sacrifice of the Lord symbolically.

INVITATION, PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLUE HYMNAL #440

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

- 1. In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north; But one great fellowship of love Throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere Their high communion find; His service is the golden cord Close-binding humankind.
- 3. Join hands, disciples of the faith, Whate'er your race may be. All children of the living God Are surely kin to me.

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" by Peter Scholtes
Tune: "St. Brendan's," arr. by Lani Smith
Mary Temple, organ

Thank you to our videographers this morning, Alexis and Stephanie Gould.

- ► The Food Pantry can still use donations of non-perishables, as well as diapers (children & adult), and bags. Leave in the outside bin or call Martin for appointment.
- ► Zoom Prayer each Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. The link is in the weekly bulletin email.

[†] We accept offerings through the "Online Giving" link on our website, www.gileadchurch.org, or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Martin McGeachy, Pastor
Mary Temple, Music Director
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent
Follow us online! Visit our website for links to our social media and to subscribe to our email list!

www.gileadchurch.org







