



First United Methodist Church

Andover

3801 Polo Club Blvd.

Lexington, KY 40509

Andoverlex.org

Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 11:00 am

PRELUDE

Redeemed; Kirkpatrick, arr. Barnett

WELCOME

* OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE (VV 1,2,4,5)

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

O Worship the King

73

1. O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove,
2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
3. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
4. Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
5. Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love;
whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,
Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old;
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
whose char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.
and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

Leader: We desire to live in God's house

All: and to seek God in his holy temple.

Leader: We have come with shouts of joy,

All: to sing and to make music to the Lord.

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**All: Teach us your ways and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.**

*** OPENING PRAYER**

Merciful God, some of your children are joyfully singing your praise.

Others are languishing in despair.

Through Jesus you are acquainted with our grief
and in him we have resurrection hope.

Bind up those who are broken, bless those who are dying, shield those who are joyous,
and lead us all to your house, where we may feast together at your table. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic+ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

*** GLORIA PATRI (No. 70)**

MEINEKE

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

PSALM READING

Psalm 22:25-31 (CEB)

²⁵ I offer praise in the great congregation
because of you;
I will fulfill my promises
in the presence of those who honor God.

²⁶ Let all those who are suffering
eat and be full!
Let all who seek the LORD praise him!
I pray your hearts live forever!

²⁷ Every part of the earth
will remember and come back to the LORD;
every family among all the nations
will worship you.

²⁸ Because the right to rule
belongs to the LORD,
he rules all nations.

²⁹ Indeed, all the earth's powerful
will worship him;
all who are descending to the dust
will kneel before him;
my being also lives for him.

³⁰ Future descendants will serve him;
generations to come will be told
about my Lord.

³¹ They will proclaim God's righteousness
to those not yet born,
telling them what God has done.

OFFERTORY

Deep River; Traditional Spiritual, arr. Taylor

NT READING

1 John 4:7-21 (CEB)

⁷ Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. ⁸ The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. ¹³ This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. ¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. ¹⁵ If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. ¹⁶ We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. ¹⁷ This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because God first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God" and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don't love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! ²¹ This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Help Us Accept Each Other 560

Unison

1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept-ed us;
 2. Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3. Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous - ness and bread,

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

ACTS READING

ACTS 8:26-40 (CEB)

²⁶ An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, "At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.)
²⁷ So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.)²⁸ He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage.²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Approach this carriage and stay with it."

³⁰ Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you really understand what you are reading?"

³¹ The man replied, "Without someone to guide me, how could I?" Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him.³² This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent
so he didn't open his mouth.*

³³ *In his humiliation
justice was taken away from him.
Who can tell the story of his descendants
because his life was taken
from the earth?*

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?"

³⁵ Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him.³⁶ As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?"³⁸ He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Philip found himself in Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

ANTHEM

Living Water of Life (Rachel Black)

* GOSPEL READING

JOHN 15:1-8 (CEB)

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper.² He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit.³ You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you.⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me.⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything.⁶ If you don't remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned.⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.⁸ My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor:

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

People:

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor:

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty (*almighty God*), creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey,
and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor:

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

By your great mercy we have been born anew
to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead
and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people,
declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,
who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

In Christ There Is No East or West 548

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
3. In Christ is neith - er Jew nor Greek, and
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in

him no south or north; but one great fel - low -
high com - mun - ion find; his ser - vice is the
neith - er slave nor free; both male and fe - male
him meet south and north; all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
heirs are made, and all are kin to me.
one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

WORDS: Sts. 1, 2, 4, John Oxenham, 1913; st. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987 (Gal. 3:28)
MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and harm. by Harry T. Burleigh, 1939

McKEE
CM

St. 3 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House Alt. tune: ST. PETER

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rhapsody; Brahms, arr. Kendall