



*An Open & Affirming Congregation of  
the United Church of Christ*

28 April 2024 – 10:30 AM  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**\*indicates the congregation is invited to stand.  
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

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PRELUDE	<i>Voluntary IV</i> Vlada Volkova-Moran, organist	Theophania Cecil
WELCOME		The Rev. David Pattee, pastor
*GATHERING SONG	“Jubilate, servite”	Songs & Prayers from Taizé
<b>Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth. Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev’ry heart. Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev’ry heart! Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev’ry heart!</b>		
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Anne Rogers, liturgist
One: We pray, O God, for strength through your Holy Spirit.		
<b>All: For we are grounded in love.</b>		
One: May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith.		
<b>All: For we are grounded in love.</b>		
One: May we know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.		
<b>All: For we are grounded in love.</b>		
One: May we love, not just in word and speech, but in truth and action.		
<b>All: For we are grounded in love.</b>		
*HYMN [insert]	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	HYFRYDOL
*PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS	<b>Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven: May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe. May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small. And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us. Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.</b>	
*GREETING OF PEACE		
ANTHEM	<i>Saints Bound for Heaven</i> arr. Alice Parker/Robert Shaw CHANCEL CHOIR · Cheryl Anderson, director	
STEWARDSHIP WITNESS		John Hall
Housing Implementation Team – Peace Village		

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 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.

MEDITATION      *Good Text: Liberating Scripture from the Grip of Homophobia*      Pastor Dave

RESPONSE [seated]

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;  
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

RESPONSE [as above]

OFFERTORY

Invitation  
Offertory Music

[www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving](http://www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving)  
*Shout On!*

Thomas E. Miller

\*COVENANT

**We covenant with God and with each other:  
to walk together in all God's ways as the Holy is revealed to us;  
to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus' ministry in this church;  
to celebrate through worship God's amazing gifts of unity and diversity;  
to take up Christ's mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;  
to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;  
for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.**

\*HYMN 402 [inside page]

*De colores*

DE COLORES

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Voluntary on "Llanfair"*

Franklin D. Ashdown