

THE MESSAGE FOR MODERN LIFE

Rev. Katie Jackson

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY *"God Himself is With Us"* Hymn words by Gerhard Tersteegen (1729)  
Tune by Joachim Neander (1680) Setting by Max Reger

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE (in unison) #563

**We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon the wildflowers growing,  
For we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.  
With open hands, receive and share the gifts of God's creation,  
That all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**Compassionate God, may these gifts be a blessing that shows your love  
for all creation. Shine your light of peace on our world and help us to  
bring hope to all through these gifts and through our lives. Amen.**

\*HYMN *"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"* #495

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORUS OF SENDING (in unison)

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.  
Because He lives, all fear is gone.  
Because I know He holds the future.  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.**

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES FORTH

POSTLUDE *"Allegro"* (from Symphony in D) William Boyce (1711-1779)  
Arr. Robert Grower

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# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

140 E. MAIN STREET, EPHRATA, PA

April 28, 2024

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*



*Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*

*By Herbert Boeckl, 1894-1966*



## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**April 28, 2024**

**9:00 am**

### WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on "*We Walk by Faith*" Samuel McFarland, 1816  
Tune "Dunlap's Creek" setting by Robert Powell

### \*OPENING PRAISE

This is the day, **this is the day**  
That our God has made, **that our God has made;**  
We will rejoice, **we will rejoice**  
And be glad in it, **and be glad in it.**  
**This is the day that our God has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it;**  
This is the day, **this is the day that our God has made.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We delight ourselves in the presence of Christ and his love for all creation.

People: **Let us open our hearts to receive Christ's abundant love.**

Leader: Christ calls us to see him as the vine and for us to become the branches.

People: **Let us seek to produce much fruit in God's Garden where all are welcome.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Master Gardener, Creator of all that was, is and forever will be.

All: **Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN "*We Hail You God's Anointed*" #104

### CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Creating god, we are grateful for the hope that you offer to us and all creation. Create in us a clean heart. Help us to grow your garden of love. Transform our despair into hope. Feed our minds so that all may glean from your wisdom. Nurture our spirits so that we can become more fruitful in our lives. Give us new life, we pray. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### PASSING THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

RESPONSE (in unison)

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM "*Love Was When*" Donald J. Wyrzten

### TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

HYMN "*When in Our Music God is Glorified*" #561

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 15:1-8 New Testament pg. 109  
Acts 8:26-40 New Testament pg. 127

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**