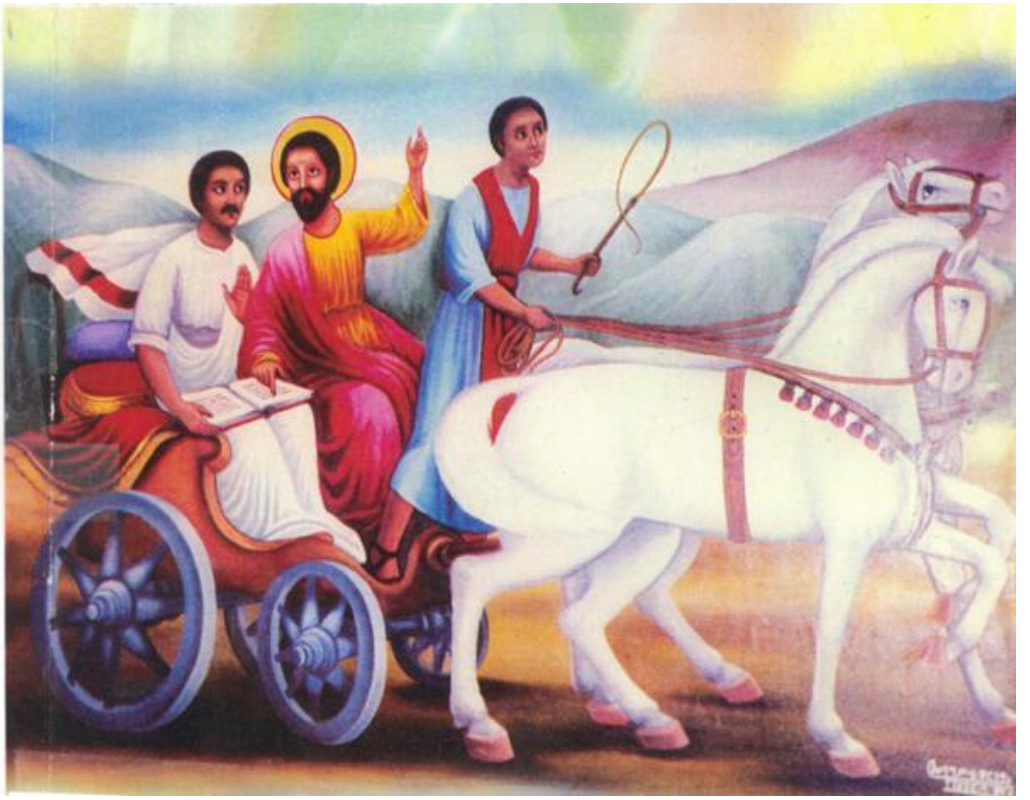
First United Church

April 28, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Purpose: Building Relationships,
Living God's Transforming Love.

16 William Street West,
Waterloo ON N2L 1J3

Office: 519-745-8487 x 201

Email: office@firstunitedchurch.ca

Web Site: www.firstunitedchurch.ca
Chair of the Board: firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com

Bulletin Art: "Philip and Ethiopian Eunuch," unknown artist

- **Is a request to stand in body or in spirit**

Prelude Prelude in G F. Mendelssohn

Listening as We Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

ONE: We are bound on this land by relationships.
ALL: We are bound to God's creation and to one another.
ONE: Those relationships have benefitted this community.
ALL: Those relationships have blessed us and cost others.
ONE: We speak acknowledgement of our presence.
ALL: Our presence is at the expense of others.
ONE: We must learn to share, as God has shared with us. In this land of the Haldimand Tract, and upon the traditional territory of Chonnonton, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee people, we are bound to Indigenous neighbours and their fate.
ALL: Where we have failed in this relationship, forgive us and give us the wisdom to repair.
ONE: May we learn to live into our commitments to Truth and Reconciliation and to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and cast a better future for all.

Tony Snow, Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Region, Alta.

ONE: We aspire to create a safer space for everyone. We welcome you and the gifts you bring as part of your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, cultural background, or abilities.

Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship

- **Introit** Funga Alafia, Ashe Ashe (We Welcome You) Yoruba Welcome Song

- **Lighting the Christ Candle**

One: Open your hearts to the light of God's presence.
All: We will work and worship in the light of God.
One: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
All: Thanks be to God.

Cheryl Stenson

- **Call to Worship**

ONE: Jesus is the true vine and God is the vine grower.
ALL: We are the branches.
ONE: It is God's Word that makes the branches strong.
ALL: And the Word bears fruit.
ONE: The Word gives rise to action;
ALL: And action proves our discipleship.
ONE: God celebrates when we act faithfully;
ALL: And we give back praise and glory to God. *David Sparks, Prayers to Share Year B*

Prayer of Approach

- **Hymn** In Christ There is No East or West tune: ST PETER VU 606

Prayer of Confession

(silent prayers)

Hymn Listen, God is Calling MV 97

Words of Assurance

Listening For God's Word

Family Choir: Do Unto Others Vicki Hancock Wright
Jesu Kwetu Ni Rafiki (What a Friend we Have in Jesus) Mark Burrows

The Story for the Young at Heart Kristin Snell

Scripture Readings

Acts 8: 26-40 (Reader: Nancy Lennox)
ONE: This is the witness of the Church.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22: 25-31 (part 3 and 4) VU 746

John 15: 1-8 (French with English subtitles) (Reader: Muriel Omand-Naylor)
ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gallery Choir: Sound Forth the Trumpet in Zion Thomas Morley, 1597

Reflection Rev. Hoeun Lee

- **Hymn** Draw the Circle Wide MV 145

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want J. Irvine; arr. P. Keveren

- **Dedication of Offering** For the Gift of Creation VU 538

- **Prayer of Dedication**

ONE: O Jesus, we are the branches, you the the vine.
ALL: Abide in us that our lives may produce fruit as your faithful disciples. May the offerings we bring this day bring your goodness and love to the world, so that God will be glorified.

Taylor Croissant, Southminster U.C, Lethbridge, AB

Call to Prayer Holy, Holy, Holy VU 951
note: verse 1 - English; verse 2 – Spanish

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer *[New Zealand Prayer Book]*
Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

- **Sending Hymn** Go to the World VU 420

- **Sending Forth and Benediction**

ONE: Like the woman who ran to share the Good News of the empty tomb,
ALL: Let us go forth with joy
ONE: Like the travellers walking on the Emmaus Road,
ALL: Let us go forth with opened eyes.
ONE: Like the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit,
ALL: Let us go forth with peace.
ONE: Like Thomas, filled with doubt,
ALL: Let us go forth with faith.
ONE: Like fishers pulling heavy nets,
ALL: Let us go forth with abundant life

Celebrate God's Presence

- **Benediction Response** Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen VU 974

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude Allegro in C F. Mendelssohn