



**“SEE, HERE IS
WATER!**

**WHAT PREVENTS
ME FROM BEING
BAPTIZED?”**

ACTS 8:36, ESV

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES (*1 John 4:7, 19*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Beloved, let us love another.

ALL: *We love because God first loved us.*

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

Majestic Fanfare
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Penfield

CHORAL INTROIT

We Have Come to Worship the Lord
Chancel Choir

Yannerella

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elder Stacey McAdams

One: We gather this day in joy and Christian fellowship,

ALL: *for we are the church of Jesus Christ!*

One: We pray for the Holy Spirit to be among us,

ALL: *opening our hearts and minds to the worship of God.*

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 267** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

MADRID

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

When we come before God, we remember and proclaim who God is: merciful, just, holy, and loving. We must also remember who we are, and we are a people who have not always been the people God has called us to be. We have not always been merciful, just, holy or loving. So let us confess our sin, trusting in God's goodness to forgive us and create us anew for our lives ahead.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

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 (continued)

ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** *(based on John 15:3)* Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 581** *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI

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. A-men, a-men.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM *Shall We Gather at the River* arr. Hopson
Chancel Choir

MINUTE FOR MISSION: YOUTH MINISTRY Ayden Johnson + Wilder Taylor

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Anna Poole

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Courtney Bowen

***HYMN: 318** *In Christ There is No East or West* ST. PETER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Elder Stacey McAdams

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *1 John 4:7-21* (pg. 241) Elder Stacey McAdams

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Acts 8:26-40* (pg. 127) Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON *What is to Prevent Me?* Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *A Brief Statement of Faith* *Elder Stacey McAdams*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center aisle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Elder Stacey McAdams

OFFERTORY

Prelude in G Major
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Glover

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Elder Stacey McAdams

SENDING

***HYMN OF PRAISE: 37** *Let All Things Now Living*

ASH GROVE

***CHARGE + BENECTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BENECTION

Walk in the Light
Chancel Choir

Purchase

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D Major
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Kalkbrenner