

First Christian Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 2, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

The Spacious Firmament

Mr. Matthew D. Albright

James Mansfield; Tune: CREATION by Joseph Haydn;

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WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Victoria R. Wick

PRELUDE

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Bell Choir

DUKE STREET; arr. Jason Krug Copyright © 2017 Choristers Guild. All Rights Reserved.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the wilderness, water brings life.

All: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

Leader: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

All: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

Leader: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

All: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Leader: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.
Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

GATHERING HYMN (Verses 1 and 3 we listen; Verses 2 and 4 we speak)

CENTENNIAL HYMN

Tune: Lancashire 7.6.7.6.D.
(Lead On, O King Eternal)

One hundred years of service, a century of love,
We meet today to honor our Father God above.
We've had our days of trials, our troubles large and small,
But round our walls so sturdy Thy love surrounds us all.

We thank Thee for our fathers who saw the prospects here
Who met for breaking bread and praying without fear.
They knew if they pursued Thy purpose for this place
Their tasks would be successful and great would be Thy
Grace.

This day we share their faith. We put our trust in Thee.
Our strength is in Thy promise that all good things are free.
If we will follow Jesus, His teachings guide our lives,
The future will be glorious, the church on earth survives.

And now we pass the torch to those who follow us.
Our hopes, our cares, our joys we give them in trust
That God's great works will flourish, the harvest will be
reaped.
Our destiny victorious, God reigns! His work goes on.

✎ Words written by Marcia Hogevoll
1976

Centennial Hymn; Tune: Lancashire 7.6.7.6.D (Lead On, O King Eternal); words written by Marcia Hogevoll, 1976

INVOCATION PRAYER (Unison)

Elder Tony Alexander

God,

**you sent your Son into the world
that we might live through him.**

May we abide in his risen life

**so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another
and know the fullness of joy.**

**We pray these things in the name of Jesus, the Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying (the Lord's Prayer)**

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-
ginning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world without end. A - men. A - men.

Glory Be to the Father; United Methodist Hymnal 71; Words: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.
Music (GREATOREX, Irr.): Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Wick

PRAYER RESPONSE (We listen)

Mr. Albright

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di-vine, all loves ex-cell-ing, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing; all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown!
Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art;
vis-it us with thy sal-va-tion; en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling; United Methodist Hymnal 384; Words: Charles Wesley, 1747;
Music (BEECHER 87.87 D): John Zundel, 1870

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Wick

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Wick

Jesus once said to his disciples, "I am the true vine...Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." The invitation to gather at this table and share the holy supper is an invitation to abide in Christ. Nourished by the love and grace we experience here, we are sustained so that we might go out and share the love we receive at the table. Christ is eager to connect with each of us here—especially those who have ever felt that they are too different or their lives are too complicated to be welcomed into the body of Christ. Come and eat, the table is ready, and you have been invited.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



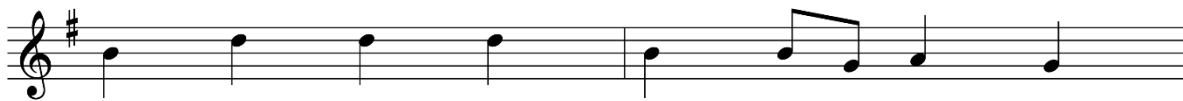
1. All who hun - ger, gath - er glad - ly;
 2. All who hun - ger, nev - er stran - gers;
 3. All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er;



Ho - ly man - na is our bread. Come from wil - der -
 Seek - er, be a wel - come guest. Come from rest - less -
 Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li -



ness and wan - d'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full - ness,
 We that once were lost and scat - tered
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble



All a - round us is our food. Taste and see the
 In com - mun - ion's love have stood. Taste and see the
 Live their days in grat - i - tude. Taste and see the



grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly; Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955 - 1993; Copyright © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc., Tune: HOLY MANNA, 8 7 8 7 D; William Moore, fl. 1830; harm. by Charles Anders, b. 1929, Copyright © 1969, Contemporary Worship I: Hymns

PRAYER FOR THE ELEMENTS

Elder Alexander

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Wick

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

Individually packaged communion elements are provided for your safety and convenience. To open, gently bend the tab down to separate the clear film and peel it back to expose the wafer. Carefully pull the remaining foil tab to open the juice cup. You may partake of the elements at the same time as the minister.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lead On O King Eternal

Bell Choir

arr. Jason Krug; Copyright © 2017 by Choristers Guild. All Rights Reserved.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8: 26 - 40

Rev. Wick

SERMON

John 15: 1 - 8
"Grits and Grace"

Pastor Ben Chuck Manning

*HYMN OF DEDICATION (Verses 1 and 3 we listen; Verses 2 and 4 we speak)

Mr. Albright

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I
2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I
3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I
4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart, in my hear, Lord, I



want to be a Chris-tian In my heart.
want to be more lov - ing In my heart. In my heart, In my
want to be more ho - ly In my heart.
want to be like Je - sus In my heart.



heart, Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart.
heart, Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart.
heart, Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart.
heart, Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart.

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian; Baptist Hymnal 2008 536: Words: Adapt. John W. Work, Jr. and Frederick J. Work
Music (I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN, Irregular meter): Spiritual; adapt. Frederick J. Work

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Rev. Wick

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning—letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves—to extend the gospel witness into the world. Be generous in your ministry of giving. You need not fear; you abide in the vine. As you go forth from this place today, you are invited to make your offering in the basket provided at the back of the sanctuary.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Wick

As Jesus entered into human life, his life is still alive in you. The blessing of Almighty God be upon you today and always. **AMEN!**

POSTLUDE

Fanfare in C

Mr. Albright

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After the clergy have recessed, you will be dismissed by row beginning at the back. Please take your empty communion cups with you and deposit them in the trash can provided as you leave the Sanctuary.

*Please rise whether in body or spirit