

**Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024**



**“Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch” (fresco; Seckau Abbey, Austria)**

## GATHERING

### Greeting

**Prelude**            Amazing Grace

**Introit**            Glory to God

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest!*

*Glory to God, Glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!*

### **\*Call to Worship**

Provocative and surprising is the God of resurrection!

**How wonderful are the strange ways of God.**

Making holy our sorrow...

**God births life from death.**

Disavowing power that threatens and destroys,

**God is a force of justice, transformative and restoring.**

The peculiar practices of God unsettle and confuse.

**Whatever shape love will take, it is welcome in this place.**

**\*Hymn**            Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

#234

### **Call to Reconciliation**

#### **Unison Prayer for Forgiveness**

**Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you. We pursue success, realizing it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, knowing they are empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone.**

*silent confession*

## Assurance of Pardon

## Passing of the Peace

### WORD

#### We Share Our Faith with the Children

Wendy Ansel

Hymn Breathe on Me, Breath of God

#286

#### Prayer for Illumination

**Gracious God, may your Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to your words of love and grace this day. Amen.**

#### First Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have

boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Anthem**

Wade in the Water

**Second Reading**

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward 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, the 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.

*This is the word of the Lord: Thanks be to God!*

**Sermon**

Rev. Natalie Wolf

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism (PCUSA)*

We are the church: the people who believe the good news about Jesus, who are baptized, and who share in the Lord’s Supper. Through these means of grace, the Spirit renews us so that we may serve God in love. We believe the good news that gives us comfort that we belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our sake, so that nothing will ever separate us from God’s love. We know this good news through reading the Bible and hearing it taught and preached. The Holy Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and helps us rely on its promises today.

**\*Gloria Patri**

#581

## **Prayers of the People + The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Offering + Offertory**

I Wonder as I Wander

*To give via text message through Breeze, our secure church management system, text your offering amount (e.g. \$25) to 662-330-1001. If this is your first time giving with Breeze, you will receive a link to briefly set up your online giving account. After you've done that, giving will be a...breeze!*

## **\*Doxology**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

#606

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**SENDING**

## **\*Hymn**

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughter

#490

## **Birthday Blessings**

**O God, our times are in your hands. Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and in grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. Amen.**

## **Announcements**

## **\*Charge and Benediction**

## \*Musical Benediction

I Have Decided to follow Jesus

*I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus—  
no turning back – no turning back.*

*Shalom, y'all! Go in peace.*

*\*Indicates rise in body or spirit.*

### Worship Leadership:

Music: Joe Ray Underwood, Richard Brown, Brenda Lee, + the Trinity Choir

Flowers: Nancy Losure

Livestream Technician: Olivia Micer

Sound Technician: George Ansel

Liturgist: Kay Brocato

Elder on Duty: Connie Wilson

Sources: Call to Worship is from enfleshed's *Liturgy that Matters*; Prayer for Forgiveness and Prayer for Illumination are written by Rev. Tara Bulger

**Welcome to Trinity!** We are glad to have you join us for worship. If you are new to Trinity, it is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God while you are here, and it is our hope that all who enter find a home. **If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join the Trinity family.** Contact Natalie with any questions or interest ([pastor@trinitypcusa.org](mailto:pastor@trinitypcusa.org)).

**Children are always welcome in worship.** There is a special time for children in our service called "We Share Our Faith with the Children," after which children may go to Sunday School in the rear sanctuary classrooms with Ms. Martha + Ms. Tina (birth-kindergarten), and Ms. Rosie (1<sup>st</sup> grade-5<sup>th</sup> grade). Children are also welcome to stay in worship with their families. When we celebrate Holy Communion together (usually the first Sunday of the month), we invite the children to return to worship to participate in or witness the sacrament.

**First time here?** Let us know who you are by scanning this QR code and filling out the digital form. Prefer paper? Grab a blue version of this form at the welcome table (where you received a bulletin) and return the form to the elder on duty or Pastor Natalie. We promise to respect your privacy and not to spam your inbox. Thank you for trusting us with your information.



Ministers: All Members of the Church | Pastor: Rev. Natalie Wolf  
Choir Director: Bob Hawkins | Pianist: Elizabeth Hawkins  
Sexton: Christopher Smiley | Administrative Assistant: Alliyah Bradford  
Youth Workers: Bek Carruth and Maddie Gnann  
Childcare Staff: Rosie Oppedal and Martha Roskelley  
Helping Hands Intake Coordinators: Henry Bell and Tina Bell

### TRINITY THIS WEEK

#### **Sunday, April 28**

8:30am      Choir Practice – Sanctuary  
9:30am      Worship – Sanctuary + Facebook Livestream  
10:30am     Coffee + Fellowship – Fellowship Hall  
11:00am     Sunday School  
4:00pm      Choir Practice – Sanctuary  
5:00pm      Youth Group – Fellowship Hall + Youth Room

#### **Tuesday, April 30**

9:30am      Yoga – Sanctuary  
5:30pm      Helping Hands – Sanctuary

#### **Thursday, May 2**

9:30am      Yoga – Sanctuary

#### **Sunday, May 5 | Communion Sunday + Centsability Sunday**

8:30am      Choir Practice – Sanctuary  
9:30am      Worship – Sanctuary + Facebook Livestream  
10:30am     Coffee + Fellowship – Fellowship Hall  
11:00am     Sunday School  
1:30pm      Session Meeting – Fellowship Hall + Zoom  
4:00pm      Choir Practice – Sanctuary  
5:00pm      Youth Group – Fellowship Hall + Youth Room