

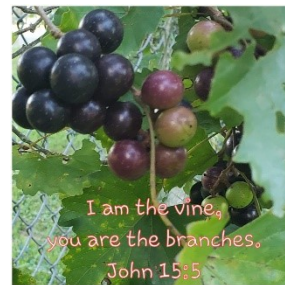


Faith Presbyterian Church

Sierra Vista, AZ

May 2, 2021

Rev. Renée Rico, Pastor
Elder Gene Raymond, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Organ/Piano
Elder Paul Hay, Video-Tech



PRELUDE "Jesus Shall Reign" - arr. Price

GREETING One: This is the day that the Lord has made!
All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

INTROIT "King of Kings" (Choir Members)

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We come to this place
where God pours out love on us,

All: **we join our voices in praise,
as our fears are left behind.**

One: We gather with these people,
those who seek to follow Jesus,

All: **so we might walk the paths of service
hand in hand.**

OPENING HYMN "Christ is Alive!" # 246

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, hear and now,
and touching every place and time.**

**Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, Compassionate Heart, when you would take them and toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command - to love, and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.

Forgive us, Generous God. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of your Gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop. Amen.

(silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)

One: God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving,
restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come.
This is the good news for us!

Many: **As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others,
so that love, hope and joy might touch all people.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.
Amen.**

CHILDRENS TIME Elder Heather Carter

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Brighter Than the Sun"* - Makeever (Choir Members)

SCRIPTURE – Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south^[a] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² 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.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?” ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip[□] baptized him. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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.

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

SCRIPTURE – The Gospels

John 15:1-8

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed[□] by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become[□] my disciples.

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

SERMON

“Bearing Fruit by Being Open and Curious”

RESPONSE

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

***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.***

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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

CLOSING HYMN *"O God of Every Nation"* # 756 Verses 1, 2 and 4

*O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife torn world.*

*From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.*

*Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"You Shall Go Out with Joy"* #80

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.*

*And all the trees of the field will clap their hands: **
the trees of the field will clap their hands; **
the trees of the field will clap their hands **
while you go out with joy.*

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.*

** clap hands

POSTLUDE *"Easter Chorus"* - arr. Alphenaar