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PRAISE ABLAZE

MAY 2, 2021 • 11:00AM

PHILIPPIANS WEEK 4 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We gather to be strengthened through the study of God's Word.

Families, Friends, and Guests of Zion. We welcome you. Please know that your safety is very important to us as we gather to worship Almighty God in-person (or online). *Please observe proper social distancing. Approach wearing your mask (and we require that anyone 4 years old and up should do so) with a servant-like attitude that looks out for the best of others. We will instruct you on how to best enter and exit the worship space before and after service. Restrooms are available through the atrium space (to your left and down the hall, notice flow patterns through atrium doorways) and are cleaned before and after each service as is the worship space.* Our prayer is: the worship environment we create together allows us to be one and worship God freely and safely even in adverse times like this. Welcome!

As we gather. It has become commonplace to speak of God as responsible for determining life and death for us. So we wonder where is God's justice when the innocent suffer or His mercy when tragedy strikes. But the Lord insists He has no pleasure in the death of anyone—not even the sinner who deserves his punishment. God's good and gracious will is that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of His Son. Think how differently we would approach the troubles and trials that affect us and the greater disasters of the world if we took the Lord at His Word and trusted in His will.

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Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Opening Worship

*Fill This Place
Forever Reign*

Call to Worship

Opening Sentences/ Confession and Absolution

Children's Message

God's Word *(see opposite or screens or Bibles)*

*Acts 8:26-40
Philippians 2:1-18
John 15:1-8*

(Children dismissed for Children's Church (CC))

What We Believe

Apostle's Creed

Today's Message

Offering

(Thanks for your support of God's mission here – Children return from CC.)

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Song

Your Love Awakens Me

Dismissal

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FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not 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 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1-18

2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

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EPISTLE *(cont.)*

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1–8

¹⁵ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

A HUGE “Thank you” to those that served to make worship happen today...

Cont. Worship Ldr. ...	Dyann Cooper	Elder	Dan Hamilton
Audio	Fred Pfalzgraf	Message ..	Chris Graves, DCE
Children’s Msg.	Pastor Jason Hoerth		

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