

<https://youtu.be/kQtPiB4IH5s>

**Order of Worship, First Presbyterian Church**

Sunday, May 2, 2021

5th Sunday of Easter

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

“Peaceful Interlude”

*Wilhelmi*

**For Prayer and Reflection:**

*Living God, we come to you now, in wonder. We know you as Creator, Upholder, and In-dweller, in our own times, in our own lives, and in the lives of our neighbors. Before the mystery of your presence, all around and within, it is right for us to be silent and to offer thanks and praise.*

**Call to Worship**

Dear friends,  
we gather in the name of the God of love,  
we gather in the presence of the God of love.

**So let us worship the God of love**

Dear friends,  
we gather as the children of the God of love,  
we gather as siblings.

**So let us learn to love one another.**

**Opening Prayer**

**\*Hymn of Praise #398**

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

*Ebenezer*

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
in its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me,  
is the current of thy love—  
leading onward, leading homeward,  
to thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus—  
spread his praise from shore to shore!  
How he loves us, ever loves us,  
changes never, nevermore!  
How he watches o'er his loved ones,  
died to call them all his own;  
how for them he's interceding,  
watching o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
love of every love the best!  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'tis a haven sweet of rest!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus—  
'tis a heaven of heavens to me;  
and it lifts me up to glory,  
for it lifts me up to thee!

*Children's Message*

*Call to Confession*

*Prayer of Confession*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our loving Lord.**

*Silent Confession (Here let each worshiper offer silent, personal prayers of confession)*

*Declaration of Forgiveness*

*\*Gloria Patri (#734)*

“Glory Be to the Father”

*Greatorrex*

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. Amen.

*Prayer for Illumination*

*First Scripture Reading*

1 John 4:7-21

*Choral Anthem/Special music*

“Meditation”

*arr. Ryan*

*Second Scripture Reading*

Acts 8:26-40

*Sermon*

“Love is . . .”

*\*Hymn of Response #594*

“We Are Your People” vv. 1,2,5

*Whitfield*

We are your people, Spirit of grace;  
you dare to make us to all our neighbors  
Christ's living voice, hands, and face;

Joined in community, treasured and fed,  
may we discover gifts in each other,  
willing to lead and be led;

Spirit, unite us; make us, by grace,  
willing and ready, Christ's living body,  
loving the whole human race;

*\*Affirmation of Faith*

*from The Message translation of 1 John 4*

Love is . . .

**what is born of God and comes from God.**

Love is . . .

**God sending his only Son into the world so that we might have life.**

Love is . . .

**The Son being sent to clear away our sins and  
the damage they have done to our relationship with God.**

Love is . . .

**God dwelling deeply within us.**

Love is . . .

**living steadily and deeply in God.**

Love is . . .

**embracing God with heart and soul.**

Love is . . .

**living in God and God living in us.**

Love is . . .

**the banishment of fear.**

Love is . . .

**loving the person we can see and the God we can't see.**

Love is . . .

**loving God and loving people: you've got to do both.**

### *Joys and Concerns*

#### *Prayers of the People and 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.*

#### *\*Sending Hymn #397*

“The Gift of Love”

*Gift of Love*

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift of all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.

#### *\*Benediction*

#### *\*Postlude*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*arr. Benjami*

*\*Please be seated while the postlude plays and enjoy the opportunity to reflect on how God is calling you to respond to his word. When the postlude concludes, we invite you to observe social distancing as you exit the sanctuary and to visit with one another outdoors at your leisure.*

***Leaders in worship:***

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells

Liturgist: Jill Klinebriel

Music Director & pianist: Kristen Eby

Special Music Director: Jill Klinebriel

Special Music: Hannah Eby

Musicians: John Eby, Hannah Eby, Linda Longfield

“Peaceful Interlude”

Music: Wilhelmi

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“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

Words: Francis/Music: Williams

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“Glory Be to the Father”

Words: Public domain/Music: Greatorex

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“Meditation”

Music: Simper; arr. Ryan

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“We Are Your People”

Words: Wren/Music: Wilson

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Music © 1980 Hope Publishing Co.

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“The Gift of Love”

Words: Hopson/Music: English melody

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“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Music: Zundel; arr. Benjamin

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