

# THE SEASON OF EASTER

FIFTH SUNDAY *MAY 2, 2021* † SANCTUARY & VIRTUAL SERVICES  
ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## GATHERING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Sarah Chancellor-Watson

VOLUNTARY (8:30 service) "Unter der Linden Grüne" Sweetnick  
Steven B. Blackmon, organ

VOLUNTARY (10:30 service) "How Can I Keep from Singing" arr. Culloton  
Will Alber, tenor

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from 1 John 4:16, 19) Hans Jonassen (8:30) | Tyler Wheeler (10:30)  
God is love.  
**Those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.**  
We love because God first loved us.  
**Those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY  
Wonderous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" NETTLETON

CALL TO CONFESSION  
Risen from the dead, Jesus Christ longs for us to know life in all of its fullness, offering us renewal and refreshment, hope and forgiveness. Let us trust in the promise of Easter as we make our confession.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN (unison)  
**Merciful God, in Jesus, our risen Lord, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find faults easily in others, while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace, that day by day we might move closer to the people you would us be. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS  
In mercy God forgives us our sin and grants us genuine repentance through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.  
Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

### FIRST READING (response: **Thanks be to God.**)

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, 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.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (10:30 service only)

Presentation

Frances Rose Rault  
Katie Kuhns, Elder

Presentation

Lilla Mae Valentine Rowland  
Ken Kneipp, Elder

\*Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' 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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving Over the Water

Baptism

Presentation and Prayer

### SECOND READING (response: **Thanks be to God.**)

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever

does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON "Abiding Place" Sarah Chancellor-Watson

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison, 8:30 service only, see text in Baptism section)

\*GLORIA PATRI GLORIA PATRI  
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.

ANTHEM (8:30 service) "How Can I Keep from Singing" arr. Bullard  
Will Alber, tenor

ANTHEM (10:30 service) "I Got Me Flowers" Burton  
Chancel Choir Chamber Singers

PASTORAL PRAYER 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 "Baptized in Water" BUNESSAN

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE (10:30 service only) "A Scottis Blyssing" Blackmon/Willcox  
Chancel Choir Chamber Singers

\*VOLUNTARY

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\*Congregation, please stand as you are able.

The ushers will collect the offering at the doors as you exit. You can also make a donation at [scapc.org/donation](http://scapc.org/donation).

Please exit through the doors you entered and take your bulletins to dispose of in the baskets at the doors.

Today's livestream has been prepared by Steven B. Blackmon.

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Jacob Storck. This memorial is made possible by a bequest from their late son, Dr. Ambrose Storck.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY for the 8:30 service are Mayson Buffington, Michael O'Keefe, Thomas Schulingkamp, and Wesley Simon. Serving for the 10:30 service are Randy Evans, Carro Gardner, Rick Grubb, Hunter Hill, and Mimi Koch.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM  
is being administered today to  
**FRANCES ROSE RAULT,**  
daughter of Bria and Ethan Rault.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM  
is being administered today to  
**LILLA MAE VALENTINE ROWLAND,**  
daughter of Caitlin Wallace-Rowland and Andrew Rowland.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ALL ACTIVE SCAPC MEMBERS:** A Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, May 9 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom for the purpose of calling a Senior Pastor as well as to elect the 2024 class of elders. **Please note that there will be no 8:30 a.m. service or Sunday School on May 9.** If you do not have access to Zoom, you may come to the Land Building Lakeside Room to participate via video conference there. We ask that you arrive no later than 8:45 a.m. Seating is limited, so please notify Hallie Boh if you plan to attend by calling 897-0101 x118.

**COMMUNITY MINISTRIES' WALK IN THE PARK:** Please join us for a time of fellowship and mission on Saturday, May 8 from 9-11 a.m. We will meet at the Land Building lawn where our Community Ministry partners will be sharing with us the latest on their work in the community during the pandemic. We will then walk over to Audubon Park to walk, run, scoot, bike, etc., around the loop once and end up back at the Land Building for refreshments. If you plan to attend, please contact Sarah Chancellor-Watson at [sarah@scapc.org](mailto:sarah@scapc.org). Throughout the weekend we will be collecting cleaning supplies (disinfecting wipes, Lysol spray, etc.) to support our partners.

**CHURCH STAFF OPENING:** There is an immediate opening on our church staff for the full-time position of Director of Administration. If interested, go to [www.scapc.org/jobs](http://www.scapc.org/jobs) to download the job description and application instructions. Application review will begin May 10.

**SCAPC NURSERY SCHOOL** is currently accepting applications for camp and for the 2021-2022 school year. To learn more, please visit [www.scapcns.org](http://www.scapcns.org) or contact Ingrid at [ingrid.scapcns@gmail.com](mailto:ingrid.scapcns@gmail.com).

**STAIR TURNS 35! STAIR (Start the Adventure in Reading),** a community ministry that was founded by and is housed here at SCAPC, celebrates 35 years today! To mark the occasion, STAIR will hold a celebration on the Land Building lawn from 3:30-4:30 p.m. today and all are invited!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Children and parents are invited to a Sunday School series that meets weekly through May 23 from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. outside the Land Building. Come hear the stories of Jesus and the early church while making crafts and art projects! Masks and social distancing are maintained.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Join us for a class entitled "Painting the Stars"! Classes take place in the Land Building at 9:30 a.m. and can be attended virtually via Zoom as well. The curriculum celebrates the communion of science and faith and explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. There is a video component to the class, featuring a number of well-respected theologians. Amy Morris and Geoff Snodgrass facilitate the class. Click on the "Sunday School" button at [www.scapc.org](http://www.scapc.org) for the Zoom link.