

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 28 April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements (*To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew*)

Greeting: What keeps drawing us to this place?

**Many things --- our need to connect with others;
our hope to celebrate what is good in our lives;
our desire to grieve or rage
over that which gives us and our world pain;
our faith that God continues in this place,
and in all the good and bad places in our lives,
as the one who opens possibilities.**

Amen. Let us strengthen our faith
and that sense of hope
as we continue with our worship.

*Praise Choruses: Eight Hymns in Eight Minutes

*Opening Prayer: 401 "For Holiness of Heart"

*Opening Hymn: 402 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 393 "Spirit of the Living God"

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

Psalter: 752 (*Verses 25-31 only*) (*Response 2*) Psalm 22:25-31

Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21

*Hymn of Preparation: 172 "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

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*Gospel: John 15:1-8

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 888 Affirmation from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6
and Colossians 1:15-20

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

*The Peace: Let us offer one another
signs of reconciliation and love.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people,
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offertory

*Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

Let us pray:

**All that we have and are we place before you, our Creator.
In this worship you have seen what our lives have been
and what they may be.
Receive us now as a people dedicated
to doing your will for the world.
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 462 "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Benediction*:

Family of Faith, God sends you now into the world.
Into service, into struggle, into celebration ---

(3)

we go with God; we go with one another.

So be it.

Amen.

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude/Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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