

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 2 May 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

(2)

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements

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: 2226 "Bind Us Together"
2223 "They'll Know We Are Christians
by Our Love"

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"

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Sermon: "*Pruning*"

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 AND COMMUNION

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

Offering/Offertory

Doxology: 75 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of 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.

(3)

Thanksgiving and Communion (p. 15ff) *(All are welcome)*

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 ---
we go with God, we go with one another.**

So be it.

Amen.

Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

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