

Worship Guide

May 2, 2021: The Fifth Sunday of Easter



GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

Experiencing love, we experience God.  
Showing mercy, we show Christ.  
Sharing abundance, we share the source of our hope.  
Worshipping God, we find ourselves. Therefore, let our worship begin!

OPENING HYMN: *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

#2128 TFWS

**Verse 1**

*Come and find the quiet centre  
In the crowded life we lead  
Find the room for hope to enter  
Find the frame where we are freed  
Clear the chaos and the clutter  
Clear our eyes that we can see  
All the things that really matter  
Be at peace and simply be*

**Verse 2**

*Silence is a friend who claims us  
Cools the heat and slows the pace  
God it is who speaks and names us  
Knows our being touches base  
Making space within our thinking  
Lifting shades to show the sun  
Raising courage when we're shrinking  
Finding scope for faith begun*

**Verse 3**

*In the Spirit let us travel  
Open to each other's pain  
Let our lives and fears unravel  
Celebrate the space we gain  
There's a place for deepest dreaming  
There's a time for heart to care  
In the Spirit's lively scheming  
There is always room to spare*

OPENING PRAYER

**Merciful One, you teach us that perfect love casts out fear, but we are often afraid.  
You command us to love our neighbors, but we are often alienated from one another.  
You invite us to abide in you as you abide in us, but we often don't know how or where to begin.  
Show us once more that abiding in your love is as natural as a branch abiding in the vine.  
Prune our imperfections, that we may grow a heart so strong that all our fears will be cast out.  
Help us be ready and able to abide in your great love. AMEN**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

New Testament Reading: Acts 8:26-30

Epistle: 1 John 4:7-21

Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8

SERMON:

John Malek

SONG BEFORE & AFTER TIME OF PRAYER: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*  
*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place*  
*Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us power, send us grace .*

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (after each time of silence, we'll finish with the words "Lord in your mercy" and you are invited to respond, "**Hear our prayer.**")

OFFERING

This is an opportunity to share the goodness that has been given to you. Consider sending an offering to PO Box 630, Skowhegan, ME 04976. You are also invited to support an organization or church in our local community that is making a positive difference in people's lives.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*CLOSING HYMN: Where Charity and Love Prevails #549 UMH*  
*Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love are we thus bound.*

*With grateful joy and holy fear  
God's charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.*

*Forgive we now each other's faults  
as we our faults confess;  
And let us love each other well  
in Christian holiness. (Contin. On next page)*

*Let strife among us be unknown,  
let all contention cease;  
Be God's the glory that we seek,  
be ours God's holy peace.*

*Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells God's begotten Son;  
As members of his body joined,  
we are in Christ made one.*

*No race or creed can love exclude,  
if honored be God's name;  
Our family embraces all  
whose Father is the same.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### BENEDICTION

Beloved, let us love one another, abiding in Christ's love  
Let us care for one another, for the Spirit unites us together in compassion.  
Go forth this day, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. AMEN!

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### CLOTHING CLOSET

The Clothing Closet is open on Wednesdays 9 AM to NOON and 5 PM to 7 PM

#### FREE DRIVE THRU COMMUNITY MEALS

Free meals for curbside pick up.

The 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month

Call the church @ 207-474-3915

Leave your name and number of meals

Pick up time is between 5-6PM that evening.

Next meal is Tuesday, April 27th: Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, and Dessert.