



Sunday, October 22, 2023

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both 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 suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8:26-39 (NIV)

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters: Barb & Ron Mable, Sonteary & Saron Keat, Linda Keener, Shelby & Jack Snyder

Ushers: Leigh Shuman, Phyllis Thompson, David Levens, Henry & Wendy Hershey, Bill DeLong

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:

Dick & Rae Ann Entz, in honor of their son Brian's birthday

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Prelude

"Menuet"

by Maurice Ravel

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Will Massey

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

* Call to Worship (Based on Isaiah 61)

Will Massey

Leader: We delight in the Lord!

People: Our hearts are joyful because of God

Leader: As the earth puts out its growth, and as a garden grows its seeds,

People: So the LORD God will grow righteousness and praise before all the nations.

Leader: We are blessed by God

People: Let us worship God!

* Opening Hymn #139

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Holy God, we confess that while we open our mouths in worship, our hearts can be closed off to you and to each other. Though you are worthy of our commitment, we often bring to you the leftovers of our time, energy, gifts, and worship. We have neglected your commands when it is inconvenient for us to keep them. We have disregarded our neighbors' needs, and wondered aloud why other people do not meet our needs. Loving God, have mercy on us! Open our hearts to hear your Word. Cleanse us and give us the mind and heart Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. In His name, and for His sake, we come to you. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Leader: The prophet Isaiah says, "let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, who will freely pardon." Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579

**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.**

*At this time, children through 4th grade are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex.
Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.*

Choral Anthem

"If Not Us, Then Who?"

by Sheldon Curry

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 56:4-7, Acts 8:26-39

Jimmy Kiiru

Message

"Opening Our Mouths to Tell The News"

Will Massey

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

**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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

* Closing Hymn #423

"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

* Charge and Benediction

Will Massey

Postlude

* PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST

A/V: MARK ANDERSON, JERRY ROTHACKER

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.
FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.