

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

5th Sunday in Easter

May 3, 2015

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Suite in D Major"

Vinci

Call to Worship

1 John 4:9-12

God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

***This is love, not that we loved God – but that God loved us,
and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.***

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we ought to love one another.

***If we love one another, God lives in us,
and his love is perfected in us.***

* Hymn 634 "To God Be the Glory"

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,

we confess we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit.

We have not loved others as you have loved us.

We have refused to show mercy or to speak up for justice.

We have denied the promises of baptism

and risked cutting ourselves off from you.

Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love

and live out your mercy,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

* Response: Alleluia! (Hymnal 587)

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40 (NT, p. 127)

A Time with Children

Anthem "The Call" Ralph Vaughan Williams; arr. Allen Percival

Our young children are invited to attend "Joyful Noise" in room 103.

Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8 (NT, p. 109)

Sermon: "Pruned or Removed?"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 703 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Offering

Offertory

"Andante"

Mendelssohn

Joyful Noise! participants will return to the sanctuary.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

*Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign
of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you
may drink the cup as you are served.*

* Prayer after Communion

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 526 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "Trumpet Tune"

Lau

* All who are able shall stand.

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.

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.