

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 2, 2021  
1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway  
Join Zoom Worship**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7423478806?pwd=MTdaSjRFSVZ3RIF5bW9sMGpqYVhXQT09>

**Meeting ID: 742 347 8806  
Passcode: 6562894  
One tap mobile  
+19292056099,,7423478806#,,,,\*6562894# US (New York)**

**WELCOME**

**PROCESSIONAL “He Giveth More Grace/No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus”  
Arranged by Mark Hayes**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us love one another, for love is from God.

**God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Let us reach out to those in need, for they are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**God’s love calls us to recognize our family, to see Christ in each other.**

Let us move beyond the margins and out of our comfort zone, into the world around us.

**God’s perfect love casts out all fear.**

Come, let us worship our God, who is Love.

**Come, let us worship in one spirit as the family of God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Spirit of Life, we come to You seeking greater meaning in our lives, greater purpose in our work, greater hope in our world. Call us into relationship with our brothers and sisters who are different than us. Call us to seek out those whose world experiences challenge our own, so that we might seek You in the face of others. Call us into Your ways of love by calling us to share our lives with others. Guide us so that we do not just lend a helping hand, but that we reach out and get to know our brothers and sisters in Christ, for You have called us not to just help, but to love one another. Hold us to this call on our lives, to love our neighbors, all who are in our world, as ourselves, as our brothers and sisters in You.  
Amen.**

**HYMN 463**

**HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION**

**John Rippon**

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in God’s excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said-  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand.**

**"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be near thee, thy trouble to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**"The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose,  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."**

#### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Knowing how easy it is to wander from the paths of right living; aware of all the roads we travel; remembering how we have failed to place our trust in God - how can we not come to God with our confessions? Please join me as we pray, saying,

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy One, we confess to You that we have fallen short. We don't always love our brothers and sisters in Christ. We hold grudges, we judge others, we brush off those who call upon us for help. We do not always see the needs around us and focus on our own busy lives. Forgive us, O God, for not loving others as You have loved us. Forgive us when we fail to keep Your commandment to love one another. Restore in us the willingness to reach beyond our comfort zone, to seek out those in need, and to let go of grudges and judging, remembering that all of us have sinned. Guide us back to Your ways of love, peace, and reconciliation. Amen.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from 1 John 4)**

God is love. We love because God first loved us. No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us. Go forth as forgiven children of God, sharing God's love and forgiveness.

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**O God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today.**

**Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### ACTS 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south<sup>[a]</sup> to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> 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 <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> 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?"<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip<sup>[c]</sup> baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> 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.

### PSALM 22:25-31

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup> **The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.  
May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

<sup>28</sup> **For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup> To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

<sup>30</sup> **Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,**

<sup>31</sup> and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

## **1 JOHN 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love<sup>[a]</sup> because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters,<sup>[b]</sup> are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister<sup>[c]</sup> whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters<sup>[d]</sup> also.

## **SERMON**

## **ROAD TRIP**

### **HYMN 829**

### **MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE**

**My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;  
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow's tears away;  
Nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll,  
blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me, safe above, a ransomed soul!**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,**

**Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **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 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.**

## **MINUTE FOR MISSION**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. In your wisdom, you made all things and you sustain them by your power. You formed us in your image, setting us in this world to love and to serve you, and to live in peace with your whole creation.

Then in the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world, you sent your only Son to be one of us, to redeem us and heal our brokenness. He lived as one of us, knowing joy and sorrow. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, opened blind eyes, broke bread with outcasts and sinners, and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and needy. Dying on the cross, he gave himself for the life of the world. Rising from the grave, he won for us victory over death. Seated at your right hand, he leads us to eternal life.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all

who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

In union with your church in heaven and on earth, we pray, O God, that you will fulfill your eternal purpose in us and in all the world. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**HYMN 498            LOAVES WERE BROKEN, WORDS WERE SPOKEN** *(to be sung during distribution)*

**Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.  
Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven, was their food forever more.  
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

**Loaves were broken, words were spoken in a quiet room one night.  
In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ you came as Light from Light.  
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

**Loaves are broken, words are spoken, as in faith we gather here.  
Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

**By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your name to share  
Bread for which the millions hunger, words that tell you love and care.  
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**HYMN 379            MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS**

**My hope is built on nothing less that Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.**



**TUESDAY MORNING STUDY**

**Love Wins\_by Rob Bell**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81660964669?pwd=TEVQNTYwN3FuWHVBV0pFa2xySkRQUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 816 6096 4669**

**Passcode: 666503**

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**PENTECOST – MAY 23, 2021**

**We will return to worship in the sanctuary! Masks are required. Please enter through the center door in the back of the sanctuary, where you will be asked to sign in, have your temperature taken, etc. It is with gratitude to God that we gather together once more.**

**If you worship on Zoom – we will continue to Zoom the worship service from the sanctuary.**