

BERN REFORMED UCC - APRIL 28, 2024



PRELUDE: "Meditation"

-Guilmant

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Riley Reeser celebrating "Riley's Happy Hens"!

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 22:27-30

LEADER: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

PEOPLE: Dominion belongs to the LORD who rules over the nations.

LEADER: Posterity will serve him; generations will be told about Him.

PEOPLE: They will proclaim His deliverance to a people yet unborn.

INTRODUCTION TO PHILIP

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.*

YOUTH MINISTRY

HYMN #272 "LOVE DIVINE ALL LOVES EXCELLING"

- 1. Love divine all loves excelling, Joy of Heav'n to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.**
- 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.**

- 3. Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.**
- 4. Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love & praise.**

EPISTLE: I John 4:7-16;19 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. We love because he first loved us.

SERMON: "If I Were Philip?"

ANTHEM: "A Joyful Psalm"

- Perry

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I thank you for your loving-kindness and supportive presence during my most troubling times. May I remain in silent trust in you when I become impatient. Thank You that in times of trouble I am embraced within Your loving arms! I pause to thank You for the many times You have restored my health and renewed my strength. Thank You that no matter what difficulty and pain I may yet face, that You are present to help me through. May I never forget to bring my needs and petitions to You in prayer. AMEN

HYMN #51 "ABIDE WITH ME"

- 1 Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**
- 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**
- 3 I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**
- 4 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**
- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Promenade"

-Moussorgsky

Attendance Last Week - 74