

Worship for 02 May 2021  
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: In the wilderness, water brings life.

**ALL: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

One: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

**ALL: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

One: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone!

**ALL: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself!**

Hymn of Invitation – “We Come as Guests Invited”

*We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine, his friends on earth united to share the bread and wine; the bread of life is broken; the wine is freely poured for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.*

*One bread is ours for sharing, one single fruitful vine, our fellowship declaring renewed in bread and wine: renewed, sustained, and given by token, sign, and word, the pledge and seal of heaven, the love of Christ our Lord.*

Prayer of Confession

*God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut 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. Amen.*

Scripture – Acts 8:26-40; John 15:1-8 (see reverse)

Reflection – “Wilderness Fruit”

Prayers of the People & 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.*

Celebrating the Lord’s Table (see handout)

The Apostles’ Creed (see reverse)

Hymn of Thanksgiving – “Abide with Me”

*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.*

*I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter’s power? Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

Announcements & Blessing

### **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 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."*

### **The Apostles' Creed**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**What keeps you from (re)claiming your baptism in the Spirit of God? What fruit would you like to bear, to the joy and glory of the Kingdom of God?**

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray:

**All: Loving God, through your goodness, we have this bread and cup to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts, and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.**

One: Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread ... [*Minister continues ...*] The gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE [From pews]

One: Let us give thanks together:

**All: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us, and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, on earth and in your heavenly host, with brothers and sisters around the world, we join in the song of your unending greatness. Amen.**

*Adapted from the Iona Abbey Community, Scotland*