

**Covenant Community Church**



# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

## We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: In the wilderness, water brings life.

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

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

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

Leader: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

**People: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

Leader: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity. Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness

Call to Confession (Leader)

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and one another our failure to love our neighbor.

**Prayer of Confession (People)**

**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.**

Declaration of Forgiveness (Leader)

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Opening Hymn #578

*Thank You, God, for Sisters, Brothers*

Thank you, God, for sisters, brothers keeping faith with us and you,  
Joining heart to heart with others, as your call to us comes true.  
With the cross our only standard let us sing with one great voice:  
“Glory, glory, yours the Kingdom, churches in your Church rejoice.”

God be praised for congregations by the love of Christ set free!  
Many tongues of many nations sing the greater unity.  
Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol when our song is raised as one:  
“Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heav’n your will be done.”

May your name be honored ever, heal our differences of old.  
Bless your churches new endeavor for your Kingdom, make us bold.  
One our Christ and one our Gospel—make us one we now implore:  
“Glory, glory, yours the glory, through the ages evermore.”

Opening Prayer

## **We Hear the Word**

Scripture

Acts 8:26-40

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

## **We Respond**

Interlude

Hymn #593

*In Christ There is No East or West*

In Christ there is no East or West,  
In him no South or North,  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts ev’rywhere  
Their high communion find.  
His service is the golden cord  
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
Whate’er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
Are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
In him meet South and North.  
All Christly souls are one in him  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Communion Hymn #573

*This is the Threefold Truth*

This is the threefold truth on which our faith depends;  
And with this joyful cry worship begins and ends:

Refrain: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Made sacred by long use, new minted for our time,  
Our liturgies sum up the hope we have in him: [Refrain]

On this we fix our minds as, kneeling side by side,  
We take the bread and wine from him, the Crucified: [Refrain]

By this we are upheld when doubt or grief assails  
Our Christian fortitude, and only grace avails: [Refrain]

This is the threefold truth which, if we hold it fast,  
Changes the world and us and brings us home at last: [Refrain]

Communion

## **We Are Sent into the World**

Closing Hymn #599

*O Breath of Life*

O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,  
Revive your church with life and pow'r.  
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,  
And fit your Church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
Till humbly we confess our need;  
Then in your tenderness remake us,  
Revive, restore, for this we plead.

O Breath of love, come breathe within,  
Renewing thought and will and heart;  
Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
Revive your Church in every part.

O Heart of Christ, once broken for us,  
'Tis there we find our strength and rest;  
Our broken contrite hearts now solace,  
And let your waiting Church be blest.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating  
While harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting!  
Equip your Church to spread the light.

Benediction

Benediction Response

*The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious, gracious, gracious to you,  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
And give you, give you, give you peace.*

Leader: Go in Peace. Love and serve the Risen Lord!

**People: Praise be to God!**

## **We Fellowship Together**

Virtual Coffee Time and Sharing

---

### **Helping Us Worship**

Minister to the Congregation:

Music Leader:

Scripture Reader:

Rev. Jeannette Conver

Lynn Conver

Josy Moore

---

## **Acts 8:26-40** New Living Translation

<sup>26</sup> As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup> The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.”

<sup>30</sup> Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

<sup>31</sup> The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.  
And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,  
he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> He was humiliated and received no justice.  
Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?” <sup>38</sup> He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

## Contact Information

Rev. Jeannette Conner, Pastor

Pastor's cell: (206) 595-2078

Pastor Email: [cccpastorjeannette@gmail.com](mailto:cccpastorjeannette@gmail.com)

Mailing Address: 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Website: [jerichocovenantchurch.org](http://jerichocovenantchurch.org)

Church Phone: (802) 879-4313

Diane Border, Church Secretary  
[admin@jerichocovenantchurch.org](mailto:admin@jerichocovenantchurch.org)