

# Moran United Methodist Church

May 24, 2020 Worship Bulletin

## Welcome

Welcome to worship! Though we are unable to gather in person today, we can still worship together and celebrate the gift of the Spirit, who keeps us connected even while we are apart. This service will be livestreamed on Sunday morning at 10:30am via Facebook Live ([www.facebook.com/moranchurch](http://www.facebook.com/moranchurch)) and on the front page of our website ([www.moranumc.org](http://www.moranumc.org)). The recording will be available immediately following the livestream.

We continue our current worship series called "A New Thing," exploring the first steps taken by the apostles in the early church. Today, we journey with Philip down a wilderness road, where he encounters a stranger who opens his eyes to the way God expands ministry to the ends of the earth. What blessings and invitations do we find as we travel the wilderness roads of our lives?

## Call to Worship *(you are invited to read this responsively)*

Leader: Come gather around; Jesus is here.

**People: We wait for the coming of the Spirit.**

Leader: Come gather around; see the power of Christ before you.

**People: We open our eyes to see where God is calling us.**

Leader: Come gather around; rest a while on this desert road.

**People: With joy and humble expectation, we praise the Lord. AMEN.<sup>1</sup>**

## Hymn

"All Creatures Of Our God and King"

<https://bit.ly/AllCreaturesLyrics>

## A Prayer for Memorial Day (All are invited to speak aloud the response and unison words in **bold**)

Almighty God, before whom stand the living and the dead, we your children, whose mortal life is but a hand's breadth, give thanks to you:

For all those through whom you have blessed our pilgrimage, whose lives have empowered us, whose influence is a healing grace, whom we name in our hearts and on our lips... **We lift up thankful hearts.**

For the dear friends and family members whose faces we see no more, but whose love is with us for ever, whom we name in our hearts and on our lips... **We lift up thankful hearts.**

For the teachers and companions of our childhood and youth, and for the members of our household of faith who worship you now in heaven, whom we name in our hearts and on our lips... **We lift up thankful hearts.**

For those who sacrificed their lives, our brothers and sisters who have given their lives for the sake of others through their service in the military, as well as those who have lost their lives in service to their nation and communities as first responders, medical providers, and other essential workers, whom we name in our hearts and on our lips... **We lift up thankful hearts.**

That we may hold these people in continual remembrance, giving thanks to you for welcoming them into your loving arms. May we commit ourselves to working for a world where all lives are honored, fear is dispelled, and the people are made one.

**O Lord, we honor and remember those who have passed, and dedicate ourselves to working for a better world. Be with us this day and always, pouring your Spirit upon us. AMEN.**

## Prayers of the People

You are invited to offer your prayers aloud to God or share them in the video comments if watching on Facebook. Prayer requests can also be emailed to Pastor Cody at [PastorNatland@gmail.com](mailto:PastorNatland@gmail.com)

## Pastoral Prayer

### 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Song** "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" <https://bit.ly/MyChainsLyrics>

### Scripture

#### ***Psalm 47 (NRSV)***

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.  
He subdued peoples under us,  
and nations under our feet.  
He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.

God is king over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.  
The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
he is highly exalted.

#### ***Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)***

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.

**Hymn**                    "Come Down, O Love Divine"                    <https://bit.ly/ComeDownLyrics>

**Sermon**                    "A New Thing: The Wilderness Road"                    Rev. Cody Natland  
*The sermon will be delivered during the livestream and on the video recording (Facebook and website); it will be mailed to those without email/internet access in the coming week.*

### **Invitation to the Offering**

We invite you to continue to give your pledged gifts, offerings, and tithes to support the church and its ministries. Though the building is empty, our ministries continue to be active, and many of our expenses continue during this season. Please give as your financial situation allows.

You can give online at [www.moranumc.org/give](http://www.moranumc.org/give), or you can mail your donation to the church at 3601 E 65<sup>th</sup> Ave / Spokane, WA 99223.

**Song**                    "Fall Afresh"                    <https://bit.ly/FallAFreshLyrics>

### **Benediction**

People of God, receive the blessing of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Go now to live in the love of Christ and witness to the power of forgiveness in your homes, your neighborhoods, and even to the ends of the earth, until that day when Christ returns in glory.  
Amen.<sup>2</sup>

*Permission for use of the music in this service and livestream given by CCLI and OneLicense. CCLI License 1507867; CCLI Streaming License CSPL155631.*

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Bryan Schneider-Thomas, "Worship Elements: May 24, 2020." Accessed at <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2784/worship-elements-ascension-sunday-2020-option-1>. Used with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Leigh Anne Taylor, "Worship Elements: May 24, 2020." Accessed at <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5045/worship-elements-ascension-sunday-2020-option-2>. Used with permission.