

# Moran United Methodist Church

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Worship Bulletin  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Prelude

Joanne Brown, Accompanist

## Welcome

Welcome to worship! Though we are unable to gather in person today, we can still worship together and celebrate the gift of the Holy 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.

## Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

Theresa Kamitomo, Liturgist

Leader: We come together in the name of the resurrected Christ to worship God.

**People: Surely God meets us and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.**

Leader: God's love flows for you and for me and for all people, everywhere!

**People: God's Spirit refreshes us, sending us out to share God's love and life.**

Leader: Rejoice! For we are called to abide, now and always, in the living Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## Hymn

"Hallelujah (Your Love Is Amazing)"

<https://bit.ly/LyricsHallelujah>

## 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

"In The Garden"

<http://bit.ly/GardenLyrics>

## Scripture

### **Acts 8:26-39 (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.

### **1 John 4:7-21 (NRSV)**

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 abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Hymn**                      "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"                      <http://bit.ly/LoveDivineLyrics>

**Sermon**                      *Beloved, Let Us Love*                      Rev. Cody Natland

### **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.

**Hymn**                      "I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever"                      <https://bit.ly/LyricsYourLoveForever>

## Benediction

Go out with joy that you have been fed and nourished, securely abiding in the love of Christ as branches abide in the true vine. Go and tell the story of faith that is given to you by the One who never lets you go. Seek out those who abound with sacred questions, and be ready to answer a mystery with love. The blessing of the Almighty God be upon you today and always. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

## Postlude

Joanne Brown

<sup>1</sup> *Call to Worship* from <https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/2021/04/may-2-2021>

<sup>2</sup> *Benediction adapted with permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting On The Word Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.*

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## Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays at 11:30am on Zoom

*Immediately following the worship service*

Join by Computer/Tablet/Smartphone: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96460688631>

Join by Phone (home phone, landline, or cell – no internet required)

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 964 6068 8631)

+1 (346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 964 6068 8631)

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## Reimagining/Reopening Update

The Reimagining Team is excited to share some changes to our guidelines for reopening at Moran UMC, bringing new opportunities for our church family to gather for worship and fellowship. At the same time, we continue to be vigilant regarding the spread of new variants of the virus, and about our local covid-19 case rates here in Spokane County, which remain high.

**Outdoor Worship:** Beginning on Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> (Mothers' Day) we will be offering weekly outdoor worship services on Sundays mornings at 10:30am on the north lawn of Moran UMC, near the gazebo. We will also continue to live-stream these services on Facebook and our church website.

**Prayer and Meditation:** We have both outdoor and indoor space available for individual or family use for prayer and meditation throughout the week. Outdoors, our beautiful **Memorial Garden**, located just east of the accessible parking spaces and west of the gazebo, is available at any time. Indoors, the **Sanctuary** is open during staffed office hours (Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00am – 3:00pm).

**Outdoor Gatherings:** Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, small groups of up to 10 people may meet outdoors at Moran UMC for worship, discipleship, and fellowship. Masks must be worn at all times and social distancing of 6+ feet must be observed. Each small group needs to have a coordinator/contact person who will work with Pastor Cody for scheduling and to ensure that procedures are followed. Leaders of ongoing small groups are encouraged to discern with their group members if a return to in-person gatherings is right for their group. We also hope that new small groups will be formed as we begin our return to in-person ministries; please contact Pastor Cody if you have an idea for a new group you would like to see, or if you would like to connect with a small group.

**Indoor Gatherings:** Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Fellowship Hall will be open on a limited basis for essential Ministry Team and Committee meetings with up to 10 people, with Zoom or outdoor meetings continuing to be preferred. This includes only the decision-making teams connected to the Church Council. Masks must be worn at all times and social distancing of 6+ feet must be observed. Chairpersons and Team Leaders who would like to hold an in-person meeting need to contact Pastor Cody for scheduling and to ensure that procedures are followed.

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### **Mission Monday Drive-Through**

*Mondays from 10:00am - Noon at Moran UMC*

We invite you to drop off any donations you have for **Shalom Ministries** and **Second Harvest Food Bank** on Monday you mornings from 10:00am - Noon at Moran UMC. Bins for donations to each of these organizations will be available along the curb at the front of the church building (or in the church doorway when there is inclement weather) with contact-free drop-off.

### **Mission Thursday Drive-Through**

*Every Fourth Thursday from 4:00-6:00pm at Moran UMC*

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### **Weekday Morning Prayer Group**

Weekdays at 9am

We meet on Monday through Friday mornings for prayer, scripture, and a short meditation.

Join by Computer/Smartphone/Tablet: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/349727648>

Join by Phone (dial any of these numbers):

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 349 727 648)

+1 (346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 349 727 648)

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### **Monday Vespers and Holy Communion**

Mondays at 6:30pm

Join us for a short evening vespers service of scripture, prayer, and sharing Holy Communion. You can connect with the vespers service either through Zoom (which allows you to participate via home phone if you are not internet connected or have a weak connection) or on Facebook. You are encouraged to bring communion elements with you as you connect in to the service.

Connect via Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/moranchurch](http://www.facebook.com/moranchurch)

Connect via Zoom (computer/tablet/smartphone: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/97155799598>)

Connect via Phone (home phone, landline, cell phone):

+1 253 215 8782 (Meeting ID: 971 5579 9598)

+1 346 248 7799 (Meeting ID: 971 5579 9598)

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### **Wednesday Evening Bible Study: The Book of Ruth**

Wednesdays from 6-7:15pm

We gather each Wednesday evening to read through and discuss the Book of Ruth. All are welcome to join us at any time!

Join by Computer/Smartphone/Tablet: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/276855082>

Join by Phone (dial any of these numbers):

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 276 855 082)

+1 (346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 276 855 082)

### Lord, Hear Our Prayers...

- For **Christy Tweedy** who is recovering from a stroke on April 27th.
- For **Sandra Prizeman** who had another surgery this past week to allow cranial fluid to drain. She is home recovering and doing well.
- For the family of Sue Rodman's uncle, Skeets Smith, who passed away last week; we pray for his surviving wife **Leila and family**.
- For **Rovella Vawter**, who is receiving hospice care and is nearing the end of her life. We pray for peace and comfort for Rovella and for her family.
- For **Richard Smith** as he prepares to move to England on May 10th.
- For **Joni Swartout** who is recovering from recent illness.
- For Harriet Van Wyck's cousin-in-law, **Tom**, who recently lost his wife.
- For Harriet Van Wyck's childhood friend's brother, **Bill**, with terminal cancer.
- For **Heidi**, a friend of Tim Decker, who is recovering from serious injuries to her back, pelvis, and knee after a vehicle accident. We also pray for the family of **Hugh**, a young man who lost his life in the accident.
- For the family of **Bonnie Presnell** who passed away on April 18th.
- For **Gwen Tichenor**, who is recovering from an infection.
- For Jacque Davis' grandson's wife, **Vanessa**, who is recovering from serious back injuries after a rock climbing accident. We also pray for her husband **Tony** and son **Jack**.
- For **Mary Alice Huneywell**, who fell and broke her shoulder last week. She is recovering well, but healing will take a lot of time.
- For **Jana Kifer**, who is healing from a broken shoulder.
- For the **communities grieving from mass shootings**.
- For **all who are impacted by racism, discrimination, and racist violence**, and for **change in our nation**.
- For **Penny Herold's granddaughters** who are facing health problems.
- For **Shirley Malcolm** as her arm continues to heal.
- For **Ardis Storms**, who is recovering from kidney failure.
- For **Karen Tauscher** as she continues her cancer treatments.
- For Joan King's friends, **Avery** and **Monica**, who are battling cancer.
- For **Lynley**, the daughter of a childhood friend of Harriet Van Wyck.
- For **Ed Malcolm** as he manages pain in his esophagus and back.
- For the **McCrea-Jones Family**.
- For all who are sick, recovering, and grieving deaths from **COVID-19**. For those experiencing **loneliness and isolation**.
- For those who are working for change in our nation around issues of **racial justice**.
- For our **church leaders** as they continue to envision a gradual, phased reopening process for our church and those around our Annual Conference. For our local church leaders and our Bishop, Rev. Elaine Stanovsky.