



# Worship Celebration

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

May 2, 2021

8 AM + 11 AM

*The **Easter Season**, also known as the **Great Fifty Days**, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost (this year, on May 23). This is our most joyous and celebrative season and the core of the entire Christian year. Together, we focus on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the continual invitation and call from God to live as Easter people, sharing God's renewing love with the world.*

## ***Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!***

As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, in our relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

**Join us in worship, this week and every week:**

**Sunday at 8 AM** in-person in the Sanctuary

**Sunday at 11AM** online ([www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos](https://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)) and in-person in the Sanctuary

**Monday—Friday at 9AM** (Morning Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 518 014 483; passcode: 170)

**Wednesday at 7PM** (Evening Prayer) in-person in the north lot (weather permitting).

Bring your lawn chair.

*(Face masks and physical distancing required for all in-person worship.)*

*If you are worshipping with us from home, either by phone or online, in preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.*

## **We Gather as God's Children**

Prelude

*Beautiful Savior*

arr. Dale Wood

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

*God of love, you have invited us to this time of worship.*

*We lift our hearts together in thanksgiving and joyful praise for the gift of your love.*

*God of life, you have invited us to be connected: to one another and to you.*

*Through the power of your Holy Spirit, resurrect us this day and this Easter season  
that we may not only lift up our hearts in worship  
but also offer our lives in love. Amen.*

Hymn

*Welcome*

WS 3152

*Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin  
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,  
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,*

*singing welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace.*

*All are welcome the love of God to share, 'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,  
where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,  
and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,*

*singing welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace.*

*All are welcome the love of God to share, 'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,  
a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,*

*where mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice,*

*crying welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace.*

*All are welcome the love of God to share, 'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.*

*Welcome / Mark A. Miller / 2006 Abingdon Press / Used by permission. One License A-737772*

## **We Grow in God's Word**

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

Children's Message

**First Lesson**—Acts 8.26-40 (CEB)

<sup>26</sup>An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, "At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) <sup>27</sup>So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) <sup>28</sup>He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. <sup>29</sup>The Spirit told Philip, "Approach this carriage and stay with it."

<sup>30</sup>Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you really understand what you are reading?"

<sup>31</sup>The man replied, "Without someone to guide me, how could I?" Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent so he didn't open his mouth.*

<sup>33</sup>*In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.*

*Who can tell the story of his descendants because his life was taken from the earth?*

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. <sup>36</sup>As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>Philip found himself in Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

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

## **Second Lesson—1 John 4.7-21 (CEB)**

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. <sup>13</sup>This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. <sup>16</sup>We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. <sup>17</sup>This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because God first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God" and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don't love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! <sup>21</sup>This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

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

## **Sermon**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings**

*Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online ([www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate)) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

## **Doxology**

UMH 94

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*In these extraordinary circumstances, you are invited this morning to have prepared Communion elements or a simple piece of bread ready to receive as we participate together in the holy mystery of Communion, even while we remain physically apart. We will receive the elements at the same time, though not in the same place, trusting that through the presence of the Holy Spirit, our sharing is sacramental as our spirits interact with God's and with one another's. If the risen Christ really is present in all times and places, then surely Christ really is present among us even now. There is no substitute for gathering together in person; however, through God's grace, we trust that we still are held in communion with God and with one another.*

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, who has raised Jesus Christ from the dead and given to us the promise of a new creation in Christ's spirit and name.

You form us in your image, breathe into us the breath of life, and set before us the way of life.

And so, with the fullness of your creation, we praise your name during this Easter season, as we join that unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Holy are you, and holy is your Word made flesh in Jesus Christ, who in life brought healing and liberation to all who were oppressed; who even in death on the cross did not waver from your way of nonviolence but forgave the ones who crucified him; and who rose from the dead and lives in and through us to this day.

On the night he gave himself so fully, Jesus gathered with the disciples, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and shared it, saying: "Receive, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, again gave thanks to you, and gave it to the disciples, saying:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

On the day you raised him from the dead, Christ was recognized in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your church continues to share this communion meal, offering ourselves, as a holy and living sacrifice, in praise and thanksgiving for new life as your Easter people, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.***

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered in your spirit and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the real presence of the risen Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for all who yearn for new life.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry and mission to all the world,

until Christ comes again in glory and we feast together in communion as your beloved.

God of newness and mystery, God of wonder and love,

God of resurrection and new creation, we praise your name and rejoice in our life in you.

All honor and glory is yours, now and forever. ***Amen.***

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

### Hymn

### *No Outsiders*

*You are a refuge. You have no borders.  
When I was a stranger knocking at your door, you took me in.  
With no questions and no conditions,  
when I was a sinner, running from your grace, you called me friend. You called me friend.  
There are no outsiders to your love. We are all welcome, there's grace enough.  
When I have wandered, Lord, your cross is the open door.  
There are no outsiders. I'm not an outsider to your love.*

*You are the harbor in every tempest.  
When my soul was ship-wrecked, tossed upon the waves, you calmed the storm.  
You are the Father; there are no orphans.  
Every tribe and nation gathered in your arms sings with one voice. Sing with one voice.  
There are no outsiders to your love. We are all welcome, there's grace enough.  
When I have wandered, Lord, your cross is the open door.  
There are no outsiders. I'm not an outsider to your love.*

*I was tired. I was poor. I was thrown upon your shores.  
I was homeless and afraid until I heard you call my name.  
And now I'm ransomed, I'm restored. Resurrected, I am yours.  
I am loved, yes, I belong. Oh, my soul has found its home.  
There are no outsiders to your love. We are all welcome, there's grace enough.  
When I have wandered, Lord, your cross is the open door.  
There are no outsiders. I'm not an outsider to your love.*

*No Outsiders / Chris Llewellyn, Gareth Gilkeson, Hank Bentley, Ed Cash / 2017 Alletrop Music  
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### Prayer following Communion

*With gratitude, O God, for the promise and gift of a new creation,  
we join with your Spirit in recreating our lives and this world by your love.  
Where there is despair, let us work for hope. Where there is defeat, let us work for renewal.  
In the name of the risen Christ, make us and your whole world new. Amen.*

## We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

### Hymn

### *A Place at the Table*

WS 3149

*For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.  
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

*For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair.  
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

*For you and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.  
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

***For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live.***

***And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.***

***And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

*A Place at the Table / Shirley Erena Murray, Lori True / 1998 Hope Publishing Company  
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## **Benediction**

Christ is risen!

***Christ is risen, indeed!***

God's love is at work in our lives right now.

The risen Christ is walking with us as we show love to others.

The wind of the Spirit is moving us outward, expanding our circles of care.

In God's love, with Christ's love, by the Spirit's love, let us go to be love in the world,  
for Christ is risen!

***Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia.***

## **Postlude**

*Come Away to the Skies*

arr. Dale Wood

***Our service of worship is ended.  
Our worship through service now begins.***

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## **Worship Participants**

### **Pastors**

Rev. Nathan Howe  
Rev. Carrie Antczak

### **Music**

Dr. Barbara MacGregor, *Organ (11AM)*  
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*  
Jeff Jaskolka, *Piano (8AM)*

### **Liturgist**

Carol Anne McCleery

### **Video Production**

Mark Williams

### ***Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, May 2):***

God of all beginnings, you bring a new day,  
and you promise to journey with me  
through its hours.  
I thank you for the breath and strength I have,  
and I ask your help that I may use my powers wisely  
and with compassion toward everyone I meet.  
Amen.

### ***Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, May 2):***

Jesus, in this night of rest,  
heal my broken places and restore my faith.  
You are my fine; in you, I am strong enough  
to live in this world faithfully.  
I thank you for the safe of my home  
and pray for those who have no bed tonight.  
In your name, Amen.

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## **Tuesday Morning Walks**

***Tuesdays, 7:30 AM, Meet in the Wallace Lake parking lot***

It's always a joy to get outside and get moving. It's also a great way to care for the bodies God has given us and to experience God's presence in creation.

All are welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am. We meet in the parking lot by Wallace Lake and head out on the all-purpose trail that runs beside Valley Parkway. Join us any week!



## **“When in Our Music God is Glorified”**

UMCB has been blessed with the glorious voices of our BW students: Grace Dahl, Lucy Hoy, Logan Byerly, and Mitchell McVeigh. Their talents and gifts enhanced our worship services and provided so much beauty to our music experience. We are collecting your cards and notes, expressing your gratitude, to be given to each senior. Please drop your notes/cards at church or mail to the church office to: Grace Dahl (December graduate), Lucy Hoy (May graduate), Logan Byerly (May graduate) and Mitchell McVeigh (May graduate). Thank you and may God continue to bless them.



## **Messy Church - “Begin Again”**

***May 16, 4-6 PM, Registration open now***

Messy Church begins again! Register to join us for an outdoor faith-filled fun event! We'll learn about Noah's Ark and how we can with God's help "begin again". Messy church always has fun, messy activities, stories, and a meal. This time around, dinner will be to-go. We look forward to seeing our Messy friends again and meeting new friends!

Email [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) with an adult name and number of children and ages. You will receive your staggered arrival time the week before the event (sometime between 4 and 5:45). Masks are required. (Registration closes when we reach our limit or **May 10**.)



## **Children's Ministry Looking for VBS Volunteers**

The Children's Ministry team is also considering hosting a completely outdoor Vacation Bible School in July. Before planning though, we'd like to know what volunteers may feel comfortable in helping us do so.

If you think you'd like to help, and would feel comfortable doing so, please contact **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x 105**.



## **A Disciple's Path: Reconnecting with your Faith Journey**

***Beginning Soon***

Have you been connecting with our church over the course of this unique time and are wondering, what's next? How can I become more involved with this congregation - or what is my next step in discipleship? Members who would like to "begin again" or recommit to their discipleship, as well as new and old friends, are invited to consider joining us for an upcoming faith formation group that will help us all reconnect to our discipleship. The main goal is to encourage you to continue in your discipleship "path" wherever that may lead.

This group will meet virtually for the comfort and safety of everyone. If you are interested, please let us know and we'll add you to our list of friends who would like to do this together. We'll then send out a survey asking for your availability in terms of time and days. We hope to begin in late spring. If there's any other way we can be of support to your faith journey, please share your ideas and needs. We're here to listen and support you!

For more information, contact Pastor Carrie at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x105**.





## Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

**Monday, May 10, 6:30 - 8pm**

via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81259288501>

By phone: 1-888-788-0099, Meeting ID: 812 5928 8501

Join us on Monday, May 10, as we discuss **The Lost Girls of Paris** by Pam Jenoff. *A remarkable story of friendship and courage centered around three women and a ring of female secret agents during World War II.* Each month's discussion is led by a different member of the group.

If you have questions, please call **Janet Mallarnee** at 440-235-7331, **Betsy Meikle** at 440-243-5767, or **Jan Harlamert** at 440-243-7126.



## Ways to Continue Celebrating and Caring for God's Creation. . .

### . . . Gratitude Walk

**Sunday, May 2, Wallace Lake, 2 PM**

Take part in a **Gratitude Walk Sunday, May 2** at 2 PM at Wallace Lake. We hope you are able to join us as we each intentionally call out things in creation that we are grateful for on our walk through the park. Please meet in the parking lot near the beach (side nearest the water fountain).

### . . . Environmental bit

The best thing you can do for native butterflies and bees is to plant native plants in your yard and garden. Neonics or neonicotinoids are agricultural insecticides that have been implicated in the decline of honeybees (those tiny non-native livestock that are essential to fertilizing our non-native orchards). In the past, big box garden centers were guilty of selling plants with these chemicals in them but a lot of progress has been made to provide safe plants for home gardeners. It does not hurt to ask questions on the sources of the plants you purchase - or buy from local native plant nurseries (<https://www.cuyahogascwd.org/programs/native-plants>).

*Submitted by Wendy Jelinek for the Festival of God's Creation 2021 planning team*



## Equal Exchange - another way to care for God's Creation

**April 5 and the First Wednesday of each month**

**6:30-7:15 PM, in the Church Vestibule**

Equal Exchange items, which are made from organically grown ingredients, will be for sale on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30-7:15pm. Just come up to the church's main entrance.

Unable to come to the church? Contact the **church office** at [info@umcb.org](mailto:info@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x100** as it may be possible to make other arrangements.



## Food Collection for Local Food Pantries

**Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00PM, In Front of the Red Doors on Seminary Street**

Collections of food for local food banks will continue with some changes. When you drop off your donation pull up to the red doors, flash your lights and beep your horn. A masked church member will come out to accept your donation.

If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office or online at [www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate). Please note "food pantry" on the description line. Thank you for supporting this effort.

## Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** ([nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you.