

Worship Service - "Four Questions"

5th Sunday in Easter, Year B, *Guest Preacher ~Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey*

28th April, 2024

1 John 4: 18-21 NSRVA / Acts 8: 26-40 NSRVA

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,

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Opening Music (video)

[**I'll Be On My Way**](#)

Shawn Kirchner

ULV Chamber Singers feat. Ryan Harrison <CCLI license number>

Welcome / Announcements

I'm glad to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church. We seek to welcome all of God's children to join us in bearing witness to the radically transforming power of God's love. As we gather today, let's share the joy and peace of Christ with each other by greeting each other as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Opening Hymn

Morning Has Broken

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Call to Worship ~ (responsive) *based on 1 John 4: 18-21*

One: 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.

All: 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.

One: The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Invocation

Loving God, we enter this space today with grateful hearts and songs of praise. We know that You are a Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God, the Everlasting One and Proclaimer of Peace. Guard our hearts and minds from the distractions of this world: all the busy-ness of our to-do lists and things left undone, all the elements of consumer culture that would have us look at our neighbor to see what they have that we don't, all the things that pull our attention from You. Guide us in this time of worship to center our lives in You, to remember Your great love for us, and to be encouraged in our love of one another. All this we pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

Sharing In Prayer

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Today we come together as a community to share together our joys and concerns, and lift them to God in prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer by pastor

Hymn

O God of Love, O Power of Peace

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Hearing The Word

Scripture Reading

Acts 8: 26-40 NSRVA

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south[a] 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.

Message ***Four Questions*** ~ Guest preacher Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey

Call to Serve

As we seek to become a place of compassion we ask that you consider all the ways that you could help our community through prayers, participation, partnering, or philanthropy. Donations are always welcome, but there are many other ways to contribute as well. Sign up to be a worship leader. Reach out to a friend who might be lonely. Give a sandwich to somebody on the street. Keep your eyes open to opportunities and possibilities to make another person's day a little more hopeful. And pray for the courage to step out in faith when the time is right. It all begins and ends with prayer - in gratitude, in crisis, in reflection on the day's events. As we listen to Annie play, reflect on the blessings that are all around us, and give thanks for the time we have together.

A Time for Reflection

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Unstoppable One, You are unrelentless in Your love and You never stop pursuing us. Remind us not to give up on one another. In our ever-expanding world it is easy to take what one person says or does in one moment as an example of their whole being. Open our hearts to forgiveness, reparation and restoration. Help us to be healers in our own lives, and to seek forgiveness where we have harmed others. Guide us in Your ways of love, and may we be as unrelentless in our pursuit of justice and peace in this world, all done in the name of Your Son's love for us. For Christ was undeterred, even to the cross, to show us how much he loved us. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.

Hymn *God the Spirit Guide and Guardian* **632**

Benediction Short prayer by pastor

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