BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

You have a place here!

"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love. Here and now God dwells in all of our lives, bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 am Sunday, May 5, 2024

Pastor Dave Johnson



TODAY'S REFLECTION

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, image of servanthood the is hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

THE GATHERING

We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy

- **▼** Prelude Reflections for Meditation
- **▼** Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises

△ Opening Hymn

"Abide With Me" page 9

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

▲ Confession & Forgiveness

We serve a risen Savior yet we live as if in chains.

Forgive us, Lord that we are so hesitant to live the resurrection life.

Forgive us that we fail to show through word and action the truth that you loved us into your kingdom through the glorious mystery of the Cross.

Forgive us that there is still fear in our lives that prevents us from achieving our full potential. Draw us close. Open our eyes to the glory of the risen Christ, our hearts to the wonder of the Cross and our hands to the service of your kingdom where you have placed us, that your name might be glorified through our lives.

Amen.

God of resurrection of life and death and rebirth

Renew our hearts and minds

God of promise of all beginnings and all endings **Renew our hearts and minds**

God of hope of new growth and harvest

Renew our hearts and minds

(by John Birch, Faith and Worship Blogspot)

▲ Absolution

▲ Prayer of the Day

O God,

you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The First Reading is from Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The Second Reading is from 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

△ God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)

The Holy Gospel according to John 15:9-17 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

▼ <u>Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life</u>

▼ Hymn of the Day

"How Deep The Father's Love For Us" page 10

▲ The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

<u>A</u> Pravers of the Church

Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people. *A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, you've chosen us to love you and one another, and to bear your love into the world. The world needs you so much! Make us faithful and fruitful, so we help nourish hearts starved for your love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless your Church with the powerful presence of your Holy Spirit. Fill it with your love. Nourish it with Word and Sacrament. Through it, let the world see, desire, and dwell in your love forever.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Cheer the hearts and strengthen the spirits of all who are persecuted for your Name's sake. Use their witness to cause many to repent and believe in you.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless the people of this congregation with faith, hope, and charity. Fill us with wisdom and prudence. Through the gift of your Holy Spirit, make us glad to obey your commandments.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless this beautiful creation with all it needs to flourish. Make us wise stewards of it, especially the creatures entrusted to our care. May everything you have made praise and glorify you!

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Fill our elected and appointed leaders with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might. Teach them to love justice; to act with mercy toward the poor and hungry in their lands; and to walk humbly before your Father. Grant to all people the blessings of peace and unity on earth.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless all who protect life, health, and freedom. Grant them wisdom and integrity. Let their labors help create a safe, just world where the innocent may live in peace. Help us to honor their service.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Grant your life-giving Spirit to all who cry to you for help, *especially we pray for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud).* Grant them wholeness of body and mind; confident hope in your goodness, and the peace which the world cannot give them.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, thank you for choosing, forgiving, and saving the faithful who have gone before us. Grant that in this life, we may bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Gather us into your Kingdom, where those fruits will be perfected, to your glory and to the delight of all the redeemed.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

▲ Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

▼ Offering and Presentation of the Gifts

April—June Mission Designation *Fortune Lake*

▼ Offering Prayer

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

▼ The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

▼ 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 and ever.

Amen.

▼ Invitation and Distribution of Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

▼ Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

▼ Post Communion Prayer

Shepherding God,

you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ Closing Hymn

"I Love To Tell The Story" page 11

▼ Announcements

Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time.

▲ Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

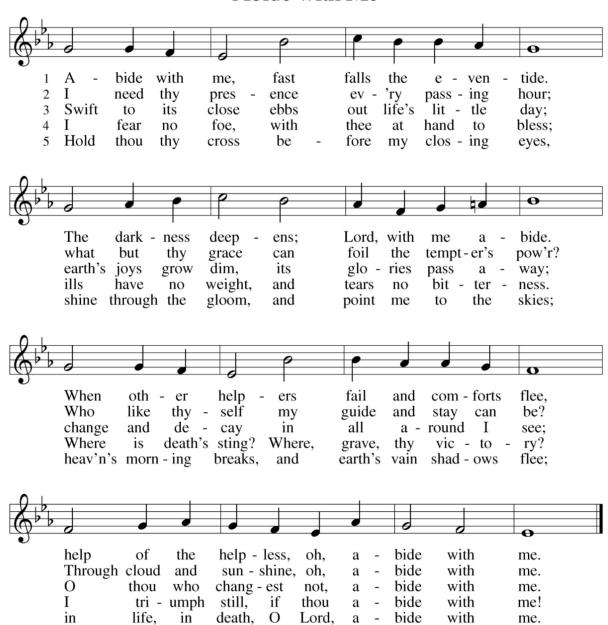
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Abide with Me

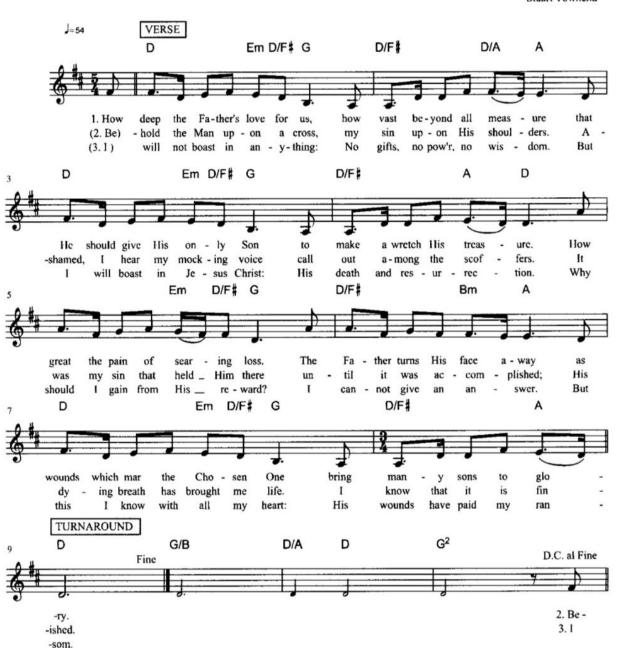


Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

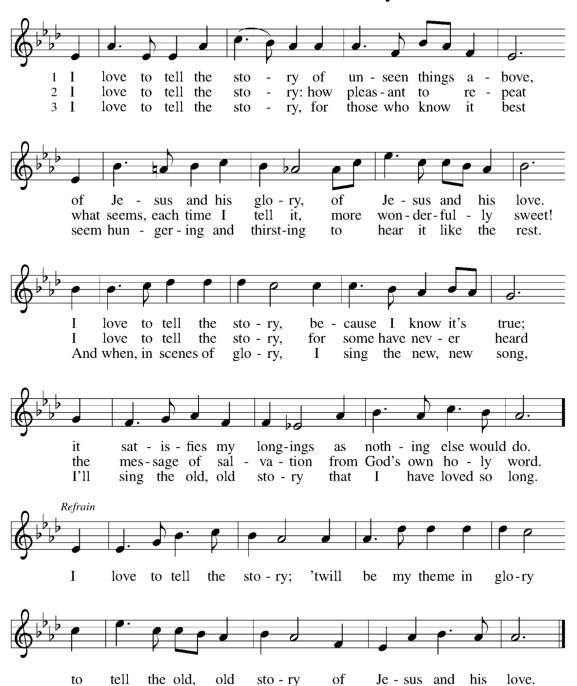
Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Words and Music by Stuart Townend



I Love to Tell the Story



Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

130 O'Dill Drive, Norway, Michigan 49870 www.norwaybethany.org OFFICE PHONE 906-563-8472 EMAIL bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com

Pastor Dave Johnson

PHONE/TEXT 651-769-3365 EMAIL ftp565@yahoo.com

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MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides Maintenance chores around the facility Christian Education Volunteers

	BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR
Sunday	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
Tuesday	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
Wednesday	10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
Thursday	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 10:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room

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