

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**May 2, 2021**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude

Welcome

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

\* Call to Worship (An African Canticle)

*All you big things, bless the Lord. Mount Kilimanjaro and Lake Victoria,*

**The Rift Valley and the Serengeti Plain, Fat baobabs and shady mango trees,**

*All eucalyptus and tamarind trees,*

**Bless the Lord. Praise and extol Him forever and ever.**

*All you tiny things, bless the Lord. Busy black ants and hopping fleas,*

**Wriggling tadpoles and mosquito larvae, Flying locusts and water drops,**

*Pollen dust and tsetse flies, Millet seeds and dried dagaa,*

**Bless the Lord. Praise and extol Him forever and ever.**

\* Opening Song: "Come, All You People"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #496*

Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker; come, all you people, come and praise your Maker; come, all you people, come and praise your Maker; come now and worship the Lord.

Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior; Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior; Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior; come now and worship the Lord.

Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit; Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit; Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit; come now and worship the Lord.

\* Opening Prayer

**WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

Unison Prayer of Confession

**God in heaven, you have helped my life to grow like a tree. Now something has happened.**

**Satan, like a bird, has carried in one twig of his own choosing after another.**

**Before I knew it, he had built a dwelling place and was living in it.**

**Today, my Father, I am throwing out both the bird and the nest.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Goodness is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Light is stronger than darkness.*

*Life is stronger than death. Victory is ours through Him who loves us.*

Congregational Prayer

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' <sup>5</sup> So they went. "He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around.

He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' <sup>7</sup> "Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' <sup>9</sup> "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' <sup>13</sup> "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?' <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Message: "A Generous God and an Economy of Grace"

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: "Listen, God Is Calling"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #753*

(Leader) Listen.

(People) Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

*Jesus gave his mandate: share the good news that he came to save us; he set us free.*

*Listen. Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

*Let none be forgotten through-out the world.*

*Go to every nation, go and baptize.*

*Listen. Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

*Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast, walking in your footsteps, led by your Word.*

*Let none be forgotten through-out the world.*

*Go to every nation, go and baptize.*

*Listen. Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

*Listen. Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

## WE DEPART TO SERVE

\* Blessing

\* Closing Song: "We Are Marching in the Light of God"

*Sing! A New Creation #293*

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of, the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching, we are marching in the light of, the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching, we are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of, the light of God.

We are dancing, dancing, we are dancing, dancing, we are dancing in the light of, the light of God.

We are dancing, dancing, we are dancing, dancing, we are dancing in the light of God.

We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God.

We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of, the light of God.

We are praying, praying, we are praying, praying, we are praying in the light of, the light of God.

We are praying, praying, we are praying, praying, we are praying in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of, the light of God.

We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing, we are singing in the light of, the light of God.

We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing, we are singing in the light of God.

\* Postlude

\* Please stand if you are able.

Message: Tyler Helfers

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Naomi Friend, and Laura Hufford

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Special Offering** - This week's special offering is for the TCRC Building Fund.

**From Council** - After the morning service, there will be a **Congregational Meeting**. The purpose of the meeting will be twofold.

1. Confirm the people who have agreed to be candidates for the offices of Elder and Deacon for the next term.
2. With prayer for the guidance of the Spirit, select by lot the officers for the next term.

For the office of **Elder**, the candidates are Rex De Bruin, Melody Franje, and Mark Voss.

For the office of **Deacon**, the candidates are Deb Niehof, Joel Niemeyer, Judy Oltman, and Tina VanDyk.

Two persons will be selected for Elder and two for Deacon. Please pray for God's guidance in this process.

**Communion** - We look forward to celebrating the Lord's Supper **next Sunday** morning. All who are trusting in Christ and have made a public stand for him are encouraged to join.

**ISU Graduates** This week we recognize Iowa State University graduates: Jodi Pollema, Veterinary Medicine & Ben Giles, Bachelors of Secondary Education.

**Roots** meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. (Please wear a mask.)

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