

SUNDAY WORSHIP

18th July 2021



God of our salvation,
you have restored us to life,
you have brought us back again into your love
by the triumphant death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Continue to heal us,
as we come to worship you
in the power of your Spirit,
to your praise and glory. Amen.

CONFESSION

Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have turned against you,
ignoring you and rejecting your will for our lives.
We have been stubborn and rebellious,
but you are merciful and kind.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you
and to please you in every way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.

READING: ACTS 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ^[37] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

SERMON: REVD WILL HUNTER SMART – GOOD NEWS TRAVELS

1. I will sing the wondrous story

Of the Christ who died for me;
How He left His home in glory
For the cross on Calvary.
I was lost but Jesus found me,
Found the sheep that went astray;
Threw His loving arms around me,
Drew me back into His way.

2. I was bruised but Jesus healed me,
Faint was I from many a fall;
Sight was gone, and fears possessed
me,
But He freed me from them all.
Days of darkness still come o'er me;
Sorrow's paths I often tread,
But the Saviour still is with me,
By His hand I'm safely led.

3. He will keep me till the river
Rolls its waters at my feet,
Then He'll bear me safely over,
All my joys in Him complete.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me;
Sing it with the saints in glory,
Gathered by the crystal sea.

*Francis Rawley (1854–1952).
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PRAYERS

followed by the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

God of our salvation,
you have restored us to life,
you have brought us back again into your love
by the triumphant death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Continue to heal us,
as we go to proclaim your good news and to live and work
in the power of your Spirit,
to your praise and glory.
Amen

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