



First Parish of Westwood UCC

252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090

www.firstparishwestwood.org

Office: 781-326-5344; office@firstparishwestwood.org

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, *Interim Pastor*

Rev. Richard Edens, *Interim Pastor*

May 2, 2021
5th Sunday of EASTER

Gathering

PREPARATION

The church was the original multicultural project, with Jesus as its only point of identity. It was known, and was for this reason seen as both attractive and dangerous, as a worship-based, spiritually renewed, multi-ethnic, poly-chrome, mutually supportive, outward-facing, culturally creative, chastity-celebrating, socially responsible fictive kinship group, gender-blind in leadership, generous to the poor and courageous in speaking up for the voiceless. --N.T. Wright, *Spectator*, March 27, 2021

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Jesse Aguilar with Fina Aguilar

WELCOME AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Sonata in E Major L. 23

Domenico Scarlatti

Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

Encountering the Word

WORD FOR ALL AGES

Metropolitan Cow

Tim Egan

Read by Richard Edens

LESSON

Reader: Kathleen Davis

Acts 8:26-40, *NRSV*

Philip shared the good news of God across racial, national, and cultural boundaries with a fellow seeker of meaning, a eunuch from Ethiopia. When we focus on the needs that make us human instead of the differences we see, we discover our oneness with all our Creator's children.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south 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.

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

>>>continued>>>

MESSAGE

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

PASTORAL PRAYER CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

**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, for ever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

In Memory of Your Son

David Lantz, III

First Parish Choir

Giving Thanks in Response to the Word

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

Until that day when we gather again in the sanctuary, please send your tithes and gifts for First Parish to the church office at 252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090.

Sending

BENEDICTION

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

Before we hear the Benediction, please plan to gather on Zoom at 10:30am for Communion. You should have received an email this morning with the link (<https://zoom.us/j/97776095457>). You will want to have a cup (with juice or wine) and bread within reach when you join on Zoom. Following Communion, we will have a virtual time of Fellowship.

BLESSING IN MUSIC

Go in Peace

First Parish Choir

Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right for you made us,
and before us, you made the world we inhabit,
and before the world, you made the eternal home in which you dwell.

**All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you;
all that is lovely, all who are loving point to you as their fulfilment.**

Grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond our ken,
we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain,
for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

**In Jesus we see your way. We thank you for Jesus' compassion, changing hearts;
his clarity, contradicting our generalities; Jesus' steadfastness in suffering and
dying; and his rising to life breathing forgiveness and breaking the cycle of
vengeance. Thank you.**

Hear, too, our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit,
who confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness.

Therefore, we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven:
**Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**In gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.
Send us out to live as changed people. We have shared your Table and cannot
remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us and
encourage many through us. May we live to your glory both as inhabitants of
earth and citizens of heaven. Amen.**