Eternal God, show forth in us and in our world the good news of your saving power and love, so that all may believe and have life in you; through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed. *Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, ...

Music

Joshua Allen

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Michele R. Goff

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Claudia Morgan-Gray

Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

— Sending —

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Rev. Michele R. Goff

May the love of the holy triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit one Lord, Mother of us all—abide with you forever. *Alleluia!*

Now go forth in Jesus' name, remembering his new commandment to love one another, just as he has loved us. *Amen.*

Postlude

Joshua Allen

~*~*~ Communion will be shared today at 5:30pm on Facebook LIVE. ~*~*~

Serving God,

Honoring Creation,

Embracing Differences

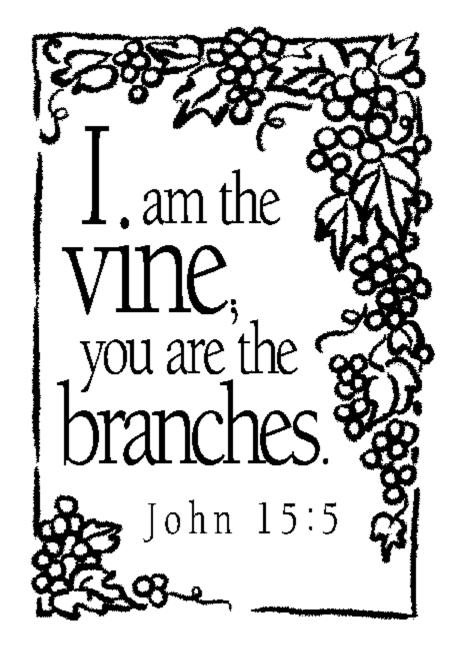
Rev. Michele R. Goff	Pastor
Joshua Allen	Music Director
Stefen Kane	Admin Assist.





First Presbyterian Church Henderson Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021



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Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Service for the Lord's Day — Gathering —

WELCOME

INTROIT

OPENING SENTENCES

We gather to praise and worship God, the one who created us for love. We gather to worship the true vine, the one in whose love we abide. Easter people, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist, Claudia Morgan-Gray

Joshua Allen

Rev. Michele R. Goff

Joshua Allen

CONFESSION

Music

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

O Christ, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches. In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you and bound to one another by your spirit. Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine, and teach us to abide in you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Michele R. Goff

Joshua Allen

Claudia Morgan-Gray

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

- Word -

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Our first reading is from the book of Acts chapter 8 verses 26 through 40. O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Our next reading is from the First letter from John chapter 4, verses 7 through 21. Listen to the word of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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GOSPEL

Our gospel lesson today is from the gospel according to John chapter 15, verses 1 through 8. Hear the word of God for us.

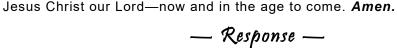
> This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Music

"Baptizing at the Edge" Rev. Michele R. Goff

ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE



All authority and power and dominion to the name that is above all names—

Joshua Allen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

- Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22
- New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the blessed hope of the resurrection, we pray to the Lord of endless life, saying: By your grace, O God, raise us from death to life.

Life-giving God, we pray for the church . . .

Help us to abide in Christ, like branches of a vine. Fill us with your power and prune away our sin, so that we may bear good fruit, giving glory to you. By your grace, O God, raise us from death to life.

Life-giving God, we pray for the world . . .

Let all the ends of the earth remember your love, lifting up the lowly, feeding those who hunger, until all peoples know your saving strength. By your grace, O God, raise us from death to life.

Life-giving God, we pray for this community . . .

Open our doors to seekers and strangers; let all who have been cut off and cast aside be welcomed into the covenant of your care. By your grace, O God, raise us from death to life.

Life-giving God, we pray for loved ones Reveal your love in the lives of those who suffer. Confirm their faith and cast out their fear. Abide in them, that they may abide in you. By your grace, O God, raise us from death to life.

Rev. Michele R. Goff

Claudia Morgan-Gray