

Service for the Lord's Day

— Gathering —

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

INTROIT

Joshua Allen

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

MUSIC

Joshua Allen

CONFESSION

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

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

ALLELUIA!

Joshua Allen

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Claudia Morgan-Gray

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

Rev. Michele R. Goff

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

"Baptizing at the Edge"

Rev. Michele R. Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

All authority and power and dominion to the name that is above all names—
Jesus Christ our Lord—now and in the age to come. *Amen.*

— Response —

MUSIC

Joshua Allen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Claudia Morgan-Gray

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.*