WALK THE TALK Eastertide at North Church

North Church of Portsmouth

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

April 28, 2024

лріп			10.00 AM	
Fifth Sunday of Easter				
PRELU	DE	Revive Us Again	J. Husband	
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Today we welcome Guest Preacher Dean Pratt to the pulpit.				
CENTE	RING PRAYER			
PASSING OF THE PEACE The peace of Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you. Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace				
*OPEN	IING HYMN	Love Divine (music and words in blue hymnal)	#358	
GOD-WINKS				
*HYMI	Ν	Amazing Love (music and words in blue hymnal)	#259 VS. 1 & 3	
SCRIP ⁻	TURE		Acts 8: 26-40	
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, the queen of				

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, the 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

(continued)

10:00 AM

*Indicates those who are able may stand

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.

The word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God**

SERMON Walk the Talk: A Wider Welcome Guest Preacher Dean Pratt

MUSIC MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

If you have a prayer you would like to share out loud, please raise your hand and a deacon or usher will bring a microphone to you. If you would like to write a prayer down for our pastor to pray for you this week, please write it on the pieces of paper provided in the pews.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAYER

Draw the Circle Wide

M. Miller

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

David Sanderson

OFFERTORY	O How He Loves You

K. Kaiser

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, we dedicate these gifts to you. May they be used to open our hearts and minds, to set our hands and feet to walking and serving in your name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

O Love #244 vs. 4,5,6 (music and words in blue hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (remain seated) Carillon G. Young



Bio for Dean Pratt

Pastor Dean is a supply pastor to the United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, and American Baptist Church denominations around New Hampshire. He is also a psychotherapist at Seacoast Mental Health in Portsmouth, combining spirituality and psychology to help his patients. Currently serving as a Deacon in Newmarket Community Church, he lives in Durham with his wife of 43 years. Dean holds a Master of Divinity from Drew University and is a retired pastor from the First United Methodist Church in Manchester.

*Indicates those who are able may stand

North Church Welcomes You

We are glad that you are worshiping here today.

If you seek a church home in Portsmouth, we hope that you will return to worship with us again. The tear off form on this bulletin filled out and placed in the offering plate or handed to an usher or the pastor, will help us to know you better as we serve God together.

On this day and all days we keep Marondera Church, our Ukama partner in Zimbabwe in our prayers.

Stewardship - "The Fruits of Our Labors"



North Church represents the culmination of the fruits of our labors, allowing each individual to express their personal beliefs, experiences and connection. Last in our three week series of "What North Church Means To Me", is Gay Adams.

"After moving to Portsmouth in the summer of 2018 I was church shopping. Although there is a Lutheran church nearby I wanted something I could walk to. I distinctly remember the choir and realized I would fit in. And, so I have.

During Covid I attended services at Corpus Christi with my husband until 2022 when NC called Pastor Jenn as our permanent minister.

I don't know why churches underfund music, but they do. So, it was not a total surprise that our old organ started on fire. And it wasn't the first time I was in a position to help rebuild or replace the organ. To its credit North Church rallied around our Organ fundraising efforts and my husband and I personally challenged our fellow condominium owners to reach our goal.

Stewardship does take on different forms and one of them must be treasure. No organization can survive without financial support. Luke 12:48 reminds us, "To whom much is given much will be required."

PRO PORTSMOUTH'S ANNUAL CHILDREN'S DAY - MAY 5, 2024 12:00 - 4:00 P.M.



VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED!

We are looking forward to opening our doors wide and welcoming children and families into North Church! Fun and adventurous activities are planned for all who enter. In order to extend extravagant hospitality, we are in need of volunteers to guide and assist throughout the afternoon. Please consider volunteering for a one hour or two hour time slot. We can guarantee that it will be lively and energetic, and we can promise that it will put a smile on your face and fill your heart with love! Please let Pastor Jenn or Gail Darrow know if you can help.

Additionally, we are in need of supplies for an activity for the children. Needed items are:

- Medium sized bags of potting soil
- Colorful markers, preferably washable
- Sandwich bags with zip lock tops

Donations can be left in the narthex. And thank you in advance for participating in this favorite Portsmouth and North Church event!

Reminder



There will be a Human Needs offering on May 5th.



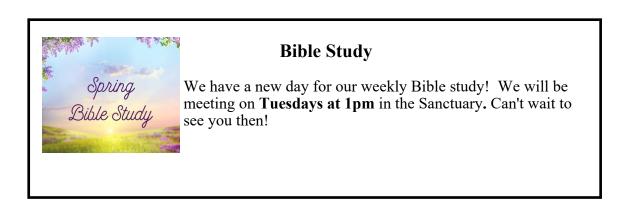
Theology on Tap

Join us for Theology on Tap **Tuesday, April 30th** as we talk about what it means to Walk the Talk of our faith!

Seafarer's Friend Ditty Bags



Missions will continue collecting items to fill ditty bags for the Seafarer's Friend through the month of April. The goal is to fill 10 ditty bags, 2 for women and 8 for men. Please keep this in mind as you shop for your items. See the list in the April Bellman or the poster in the Narthex for the requested items. You may place your donations in the collection box in the Narthex as you enter the church.



NEW LIFE IN CHRIST Love Divine, All Loves Excelling 358 . Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel-ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive; 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a-tion, pure and spot-less let us be: 2 thy hum - ble dwell-ing, all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown. fix in 115 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom-ised rest. re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. sud - den - ly let see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re-stored in thee: us Je - sus, thou art all com - pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; Take a - way the love of sin-ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be; al - ways bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, Thee we would be changed from glo - ry glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, in - to 2 vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem-bling heart. end of faith, as its be - gin-ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty. pray and praise thee with - out ceas-ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love. till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) MUSIC: John Zundel (1815-1882)

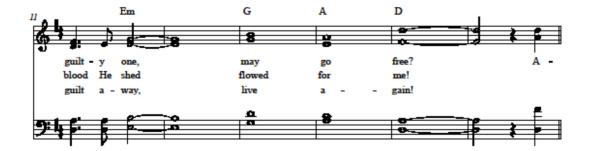
BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

Amazing Love









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(continued)

Amazing Love - 2





WORDS: Latin hymn, 15th c.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt. MUSIC: Trier manuscript, 15th c.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); harm. George R. Woodward (1848-1934)

L.M.

EPIPHANY

North Church of Portsmouth

United Church of Christ



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