



welcome
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE



DRINKING FROM THE FOUNTAIN



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Neil Parker
Fifth Sunday of Easter - 15 May 2022

MEDITATION & PRELUDE

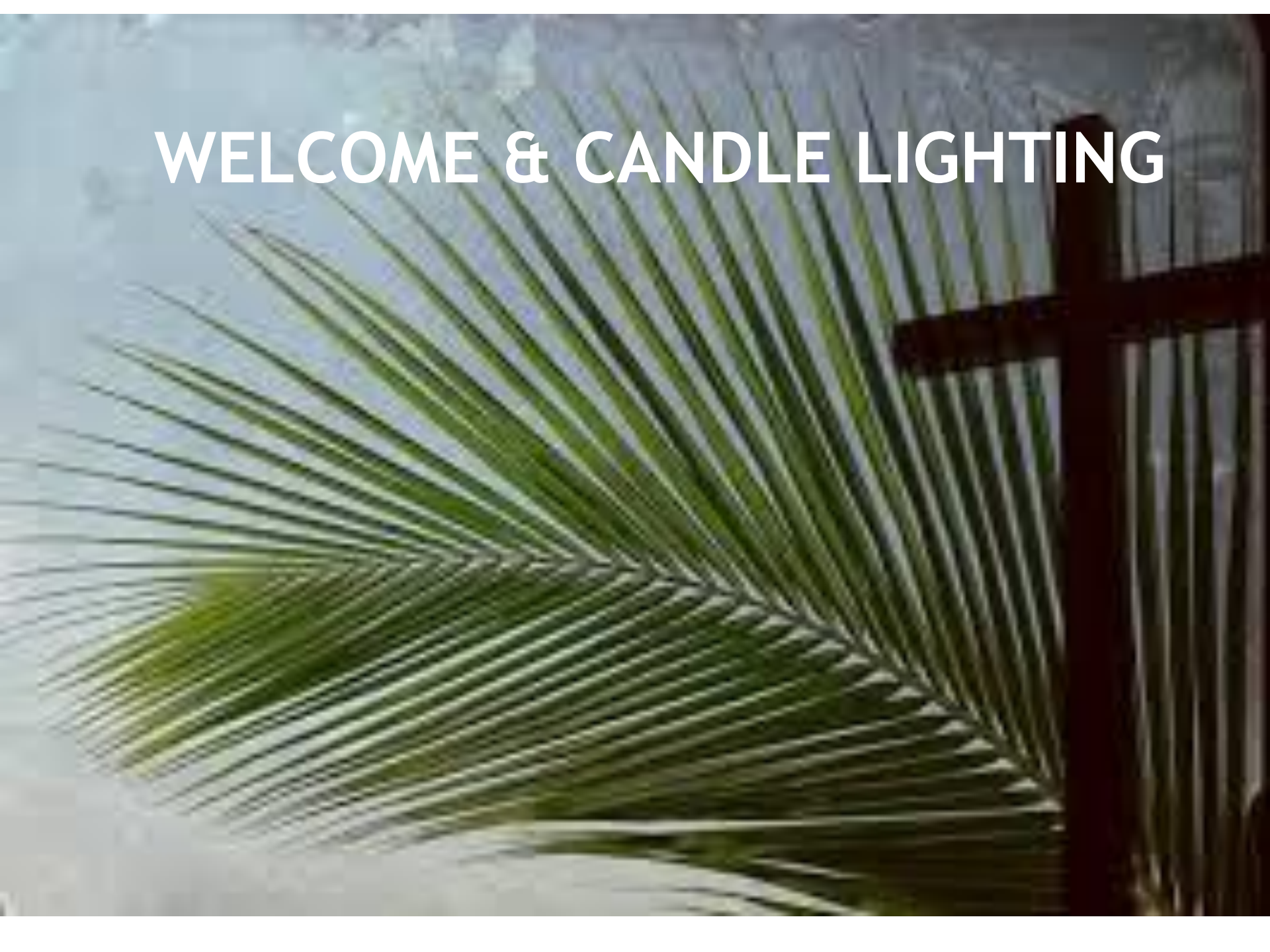
Tomasz Pietak, organ



VCC CHOIR



WELCOME & CANDLE LIGHTING



OPENING HYMN - CH 65

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.

You ask who that may be?

Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4 That Word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!



SPECIAL PEOPLE

FIRST READING - *Acts 11:1-18*

Read by Anne Storey

Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.” Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I

was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' 'I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 'The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again. 'Right then three men who had been sent to me from

Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I

remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?” When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

SECOND READING: *Revelation 21:1-6*

Read by Anne Storey

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.

They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

SOLO

**"Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben"
(from Bach's St. Matthew's Passion)**

ARIANNA BENDIT, FLUTE



SERMON: *WHY WE CRY*



RESPONSIVE HYMN - CH 371

Wade in the Water

Wade in the water, (children,)

Wade in the water, children,

Wade in the water,

God's a-going to trouble the water.

1. See that host all dressed in white,
God's a going to trouble the water;
The leader looks like the Israelite,
God's a going to trouble the water.

Refrain

Refrain

Wade in the water, (children,)
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's a-going to trouble the water.

2. See that band all dressed in red,
God's a going to trouble the water;
Looks like the band that Moses led,
God's a going to trouble the water.

Refrain

Refrain

Wade in the water, (children,)
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's a-going to trouble the water.

3. Look over younger, what do I see?
God's a going to trouble the water;
the Holy Ghost a-coming on me,
God's a going to trouble the water.

Refrain

Refrain

Wade in the water, (children,)
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's a-going to trouble the water.

4. If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
God's a going to trouble the water;
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream,
God's a going to trouble the water.

Refrain

Refrain

Wade in the water, (children,)
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's a-going to trouble the water.

OFFERING



Offering
WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

"Ich will bei meinen Jesu wachen"
(from Bach's St. Matthew's Passion)

Michael Rueda, oboe

Tomasz Pietak, organ

DOXOLOGY - CH 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heavenly host: Praise
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen



A high-angle, low-key photograph of a diverse group of people holding hands in a circle. The individuals are looking upwards, and the lighting is bright and warm, creating a sense of hope and unity. The word "PRAYERS" is centered in the image in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

PRAYERS

Photo by Delain Johnson([Unsplash](#))



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN - TUNE FROM CH 566

By Gracious Powers

By gracious powers so wonderfully
sheltered
and confidently waiting, come what may,
we know that God is with us night and
morning,
and never fails to meet us each new day.

Yet are our hearts by their old foe
tormented;
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure
salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught us to
prepare.

And when the cup you give is filled to
brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it gladly, trusting though with
trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

If once again, in this mixed world, you give
us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall recall what we have learned
through sorrow,
and dedicate our lives to you alone.

A PRAYER AS I PUT ON MY MASK

Creator, as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament in the
wearing of this cloth - let it be "an outward
sign of an inward grace" - a tangible and
visible way of living love for my
neighbours, as I love myself.

**Christ, since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart, that people would see
my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled, help me to
speak clearly, not only with my words,
but with my actions.**

Holy Spirit, As the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully - and full of care - to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.

In your Name and in that love, I pray.

May it be so. May it be so.



Sino
Amen!

BLESSING

Go in peace to love
and serve the
Lord.

Thanks be to God



POSTLUDE



***Fiocco: Allegro
(Joseph-Hector)***

Elizabeth Koyama, violin
Tomasz Pietak, organ