



“From You Comes My Praise: Guide My Steps”

Fifth Sunday of Easter and Communion Sunday

**Prelude – Please gather your communion elements together
Welcome**

GATHERING OUR STRENGTH

Threshold - VIDEO FROM WORSHIP DESIGN STUDIO

Leader: This is the call!

Look to the skies be it rain or shine.

People: We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Look around and see that you do not dance alone.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of praise and set out anyway.

For we are called to dance again!

Offering Our Resources and our Energy

Opening Song of Praise

"Lead Me Guide Me"

FWS #2214

Words by: Doris Aker Music by Doris Akers, adapt. by Mark A. Miller

"Step by Step"

CCLI Song # 696994

Prayer

Sing Along:

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

LEARNING THE STEPS

A Story for All Ages

(Children's Time)

This week's dreamer: Marian Anderson



Marian had a dream - a dream to sing at the Metropolitan Opera, something that no other black person had ever done.

Repeat-after-me-prayer:

**“We offer thanks
we offer thanks
for dreamers true
for dreamers true
for all they are
and all they do
and all they do.**

**Let us become
let us become
dreamers too
dreamers too
and bring new life
and bring new life
to me and you
to me and you!
Amen!
Amen!**

**He brought me to his banqueting table
His umbrella over me is love
He brought me to his banqueting table
His umbrella over me is love
He brought me to his banqueting table
His umbrella over me is love
His umbrella over me is love**

**Song: There is Room in God's Great Welcome
HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7 D ("God, Who Stretched the
Spangled Heavens")
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A Story for the Ages

(Scripture)

First Reading: Psalm 22:25-31 (NRSV, adapted)
From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear God. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Holy One shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. For dominion belongs to the One who rules over the nations. To this One, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; and I shall live for God alone.

Posterity will serve God; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim God's divine deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that God indeed has done it.

Second Reading: Acts 8:26-39 (NRSV, adapted)
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. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch 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.

Sounds of Resurrection

"Order My Steps"

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The Invitation

Celebrant: Will you open yourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ that is always and already available here at this table? If so, say, "Open us to your grace, Lord."

All: "Open us to your grace, Lord."

Will you open yourselves once again to the call of Jesus Christ? If so, say, "Open us to your call, Lord."

"Open us to your call, Lord."

Will you open yourselves to the possibility of transformation through Jesus Christ? If so, say, "Transform us, O Lord."
"Transform us, O Lord."

As we prepare to attend the heavenly feast, we especially pray for those who have no earthly tables, or no place at a table, and so little daily bread.

We confess this day that we have been slow to join the dance that brings life to all, brings love to all, brings sustenance to all.
In silence, let us lift up our prayers of confession...

Celebrant: Hear this good news!

God has loved you from the very beginning.
The invitation of Christ is never-ending.
The Holy Spirit is transforming you even now!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen!**

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please greet each other as the Body of Christ as you pass the peace of Christ with one another with a wave.

The Great Thanksgiving

Jesus is with us!

With us now and forever!

So lift up your hearts and voices!

We lift them up to God!

Let's join in thanks and praise!
How right it is to do this together!

And so we join with the glorious chorus of saints past and present, singing a never-ending hymn of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy!
God of power and might,
everywhere we see your glory!
Blessed are they who come in your name.
Hosanna! Alleluia! Amen!**

Indeed, you are holy!
And blessed is your son Jesus,
Anointed One, Liberator,
Dance Partner, Sibling, Friend....

And so, my friends, we remember. And we believe:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!

All glory to you, Living Presence, Holy One, Holy God,
through Jesus our Christ
and the Holy Spirit our Advocate.
Amen.

Communion Together

You're invited to dine – and to dance.
The table extends beyond this physical space
and into the space of the Spirit that unites us.
This song of invitation asks us,
"Come, won't you dance, come, won't you dine,
and take down the wall between your heart and mine?"
May we respond with "Yes!" as we receive these gifts together.

Song: “Come, Won’t You Dance” – Music by D’Anna
Chance, Arranged by Chuck Bell

THE BODY MOVES IN RESPONSE

Prayers of the People

Sung:

**Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

Leader: For the beauty of the world in all its diversity, we
give you thanks, O God...

Leader: We pray this together...

People: May our gratitude to you fill our days.

Leader: We need your healing, O Holy One, for our
troubled planet, for our nation, for all who are struggling in
body, mind, relationships, and spirit.
We remember those who are suffering...

Leader: We pray this together...

People: Come, O God, and restore our lives.

Sung:

**Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,
following Christ in a life resurrected,
teach me to act with compassion and justice,
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.**

Leader: Be with each of us now.

May the dance of your Spirit ever call us
to engage with you and with the needs around us.
Lead us; guide us; surround and fill us.

Leader: Let us pray together...

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Sung:

**Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

STEPPING OUT

Song for Stepping Out

“Mourning Into Dancing”

Songselect # 836046

Tommy Walker

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Benediction

Postlude

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