

Aug. 23rd, 2026

Supply Minister: Reverend Jakob Koch - The Ethiopian Eunuch

The call to worship was Psalm 150. Rev. Koch asks, why does God need praise? And explains that through praise we reciprocate the love that God shows for us and build a relationship that is safe to be fully known and fully loved.

Psalm 8 describes the Ethiopian Eunuch. A story about someone who was denied worship and later became the temple of God. The eunuch oversaw the Ethiopian treasury and travelled to Jerusalem following a spiritual hunger. He could bear no children and was considered unclean and incomplete by society. Stigmatized, humiliated, and deprived of justice, he was denied entry into the family of God.

Rev. Koch described societal labels such as lazy or dumb. God says you are not these labels; you simply need adjustments. God gives us transformative love, true as we are. We are not disqualified from being part of God's family. God has no favourites.

An enemy tactic tells us to pull away from God when we stumble, that God will be upset because we do not measure up. This is not true. Yes, repentance is part of the story, but not the ending. The central meaning is that God wants to embrace and have a relationship with us. The good news is that we get to be in relationship with God.

The number one reason that hinders people from baptism is a lack of worthiness, as though they are not good enough yet to belong to the family of God. Stigmas, labels, redemptive family - none of it matters. God calls those on the outside to come within, into the new family of God. Every story of Evangelism starts with Jesus' or the Apostles answering a felt need of others. The eunuch's felt need was relationship with God.

Rev. Koch likens baptism to a marriage ceremony, where we make a commitment to God, to walk with him through life. And communion is the anniversary. You start by making the commitment. You fall in love as you are. Knowing that you are willing to face life together, a willingness to reciprocate the love that God shows us. This is not easy, but better, going through life with him is better than without. We do not have to know and be all, just enough to know God and choose to walk with him. Be enamoured by the love that God has for us. God loves us, even as sinners, knows us fully, loves us fully. This is the good news.

Rev. Koch referenced Jesus' suffering in Isaiah 53-56. 53:7, "He was led like a lamb to slaughter". Jesus was the last to suffer for sin. All those who come to love him will be children of God. 53:10 "he will see his offspring and prolong his days". 56:5 "I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever".

God says come as you are, everyone has a place. God has a role for you to be a beautiful part of the family. The story of the Eunuch teaches us that God takes shame and turns it into a fruitful life. God asks us to look beyond our walls. Rev. Koch ends by asking, Is there someone in your community who needs to feel invited in? And reminds us to ask God in prayer to show you those people and open your hearts to them. May God work on us more and more, showing us the value of each person and the dreams that God has for them.