

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

May 15, 2022

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

### GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

*Largo*

John M. Rasley

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

*Sing Praise to God, You Heavens*

The Call To Worship

Heather Eland, liturgist

*Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ...*

Alleluia! Christ is alive: let all the people praise him!

**Let all creation sing with joy!**

Let everything that has being praise You, O Lord.

Young and old, near and far, together all shall praise the Name of the Lord.

**We praise Your Name, O God, for Your glory is forever,**

*Together, Let us pray...*

The Prayer of Adoration

**O God, we gather to worship and praise You! You uphold those who are falling and raise up those who are bowed down. You are faithful in words, gracious in deeds, just in all ways, and kind in all that you do. Your dominion shall endure forever. Today and all days, we will give you blessing and honor!**

\*The Hymn 1

*Holy Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;*

*Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee, Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see, only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

CALL: *Our God is welcoming and merciful. Let us humbly come before God in prayer with the confession of our sins:*

The Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, You command us to love one another, yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace. You command us to care for all creation, yet we neglect the earth. You command us to walk in the ways of Christ, yet we too often walk our own way. Forgive us O God. Lead us to reconciliation and help us to share Your love with people everywhere. Amen.**

The Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News!

**In Christ, God is making all things new!**

The old life is gone, and a new life has begun!

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*The Gloria Patri (sung)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.**

\*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshipping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The New Testament Lesson: *Acts 11: 1-18*

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 148: 1-14*

\*The Hymn 374

*O Holy City, Seen of John*

*O holy city seen of John, where Christ, the Lamb, does reign,  
Within whose four-square walls shall come no might,  
nor need, nor pain, And where the tears are wiped from eyes that shall not weep again!*

*O shame to us who rest content while lust and greed  
for gain in street and shop and tenement wring gold from human pain,  
and bitter lips in deep despair cry, "Christ has died in vain!"*

*Give us, O God, the strength to build the city that has stood Too long a dream;  
whose laws are love, whose ways are servanthood, And where the sun that  
shines becomes your grace for human good.*

*Already in the mind of God that city rises fair.  
Lo, how its splendor challenges the souls that greatly dare,  
And bids us seize the whole of life and build its glory there.*

The Epistle Lesson: *Revelation 21:1-6*

A Moment with the Children

The Anthem

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter

*For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies, Lord of all, to  
Thee we raise, This our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and Moon and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For each perfect gift of Thine, To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

The Gospel Lesson: *John 13:31-35*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

*The New Jerusalem*  
Michelle L. Abel

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

\*The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

The Lord' 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.**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

\*The Hymn 366

Love Divine All Love Excelling

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, Thou art all compassion;  
Pure unbounded love Thou art; Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find that promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty to deliver; let us all Thy life receive; suddenly return,  
and never, never more Thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve Thee as Thy hosts above, pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.*

*Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. let us see Thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in Thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

\*The Charge and Benediction

\*The Postlude

*Trumpet Voluntary*  
(Based on an Old English Hornpipe)

Gordon Young

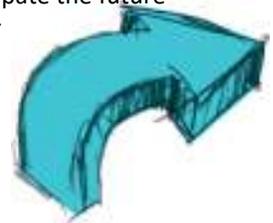
# Announcements for May 11-18

## ***New and Unknown***

The end of the school year is quickly approaching; for some, it has already ended. With each turning of the school year, there is a class of eager graduates, ready to step into the next phase of their lives. This change is usually seen through a positive lens where we, as individuals, level-up and proceed to the next challenge that lies on our path. As with all change, however, it can be difficult. It is hard to leave the predictable and comfortable world that we have known for something new and unpredictable. And yet the message of Jesus and the gospels is to embrace that new-ness and unknown-ness of life. When Jesus appeared before the disciples on Easter Morning, he didn't say that everything was going to be the same. No, he eventually left, leaving the space for his disciples to step in and continue the work that Christ had shown them and called them into. The disciples used their experience with Jesus as the springboard to change the world around them, forming the very Church from which we today trace our origins and roots to.

As we celebrate the graduates of our congregation this Sunday, I invite you to reflect on where you have been as an individual, as families, and where we have been as a congregation. I also encourage you to that reflection be a springboard into the great unknown that is ever present in our lives. Let us step into the space that Christ leaves for us in his resurrection. Just like the high school graduate, eager to start their college journey, let us also anticipate the future with excitement, maybe a bit of nervousness, and anticipation for what is to come for ourselves, our families, our congregation, and our world.

Peace,  
*Eric*



## ***Birthdays this week***

- 15. James Campbell, Mary Wynn McDaniel
- 16. Peg Langdon, Bob Smiley
- 19. Mike Blashford, Courtney Nix
- 20. Ryan Sweet, Mary MacNemar
- 22. Joyce Nichols, Pat Parkinson



## ***Church Family News:***

**Capsule of Concern:** Tom Edwards, Carole Fariss, Doris Glidden, Doris Gulatsi, Donna Hughes, Sharon Moser, Larry Repanshek, Lou Silvey

**Congratulations** to Jeremy and Josie Fisher on the birth of their son, Paul Davis, who was born on May 5, 2022. Paul's brother is Theodore. Allen and Chris Fisher are his grandparents. His aunts and uncle are Becca Fisher, Hannah Fisher, Sarah and Jake Cohen. Lilah is his cousin.

Our heartfelt **Christian love and sympathies** are extended to Caroline Deaderick and family on the death of her husband, Bob, who died on May 10, 2022.

The Nix and McGhee families want to thank everyone for reaching out to support us through their cards, meals, thoughts and prayers for our families over the past few weeks. We are blessed to be surrounded by such a loving and caring Church family.

## ***Weekly Meetings & Activities***

- Wed. (5/11) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)  
CE Cmte, 6:30pm (J. Brian's)
- Thurs. (5/12) — Women's Bible Study, 9:30am (Zoom)  
Jubilate Ringers, 6pm (Sanct. Balcony)  
Adult Choir, 7:30pm (Choir Room)
- Sun. (5/15) — Worship, 8:30 (Sanct./Youtube)  
LIFT Hour, 9:45am  
Worship, 11am (Sanct.)  
Youth Leaders Planning Team, 12pm (Conf.Rm)
- Mon (5/16) — Keep It Moving-group, 3:15pm (FH)  
Outreach Cmte, 7pm (Conf. Rm/Zoom)
- Tues. (5/17) — Men's Breakfast Group, 7:30am  
(Conf. Rm/Zoom) Contact [John Howe](#)  
PW Coord. Team, 10am (FH)  
Session, 7pm (FH)  
Jubilate Ringers, 6pm (Sanct. Balcony)  
Adult Choir, 7:30pm (Choir Room)
- Wed. (5/18) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Library)

## Lectionary Readings for Sunday, May 15:

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148;  
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35



## LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER *For Creation*

**LIFT Hour** ~ Sunday, May 15, 9:45 a.m.

**CHILDREN'S LIFT**

Age 4 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Ed. Building. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Child Care available for infants—age 3, Ed. Building 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**YOUTH & ADULT LIFT GATHERING, Fellowship Hall**

All adults and youth (MS/HS) are invited to Fellowship Hall for presentations and conversation about our call to care for creation. Piper Foresman and Jerry Zekert will lead us in exploring ways we can be more intentional creation-care stewards here at church. Jen Rowe will give an update about our status as an Earth Care Congregation in the PCUSA.

**LIFT and CHURCH PICNIC next week – May 22**

Our semester concludes this week with LIFT classes for children, youth, and adults.

Parenting for All Ages & Stages – Middle House

Order of Worship – Undercroft

Faith & Movies – Parlor, *7 Pounds* (Amazon)

Children's LIFT – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Education Building

MS/HS Group – Middle House, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

We will celebrate the Confirmands and the start of summer with a **Church Picnic** immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service. *Please bring a dish to share.* Chicken tenders and beverages will be provided.



**Under Construction! VBS and Grown-Up Camp**

June 12 - 16, 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday,

5:30-7:30 p.m. weekdays.

Each day's program will begin with a catered meal for everyone in the Fellowship Hall. Children will then head to VBS where they will be learning and exploring what it means to be in community through Bible stories, and building projects led by Steve Eckel, Steve Spratt and Gary Vaughn.

Adults will have the choice between a Bible study class in the Middle House led by Dorothy Mondak, or a Lifestyle class with a different teacher and topic each day. The leaders are Marsha Lockett, Vicky Wilder, Robert Fidler, and Sherman Brown.

Our VBS/Grown-Up Camp will conclude on Thursday with S'Mores and a campfire for all.

Registration begins May 15, either at church or online through [Realm](#).

If you would like to volunteer, talk to Jen Rowe or Brittany Harvey.

**Brownies** are needed for the **Community Dinner** on May 21. Contact Karen Johnson if you would like to help, [ksjohnson422@msn.com](mailto:ksjohnson422@msn.com), (540) 621-5685.

**Keep It Moving—Body & Soul**

Mondays in May at 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall (with ample room to spread-out) Invitation is to all for fellowship through moving in community. We open with prayer, and then Vicky Wilder leads us through movements which develop balance, strength, and flexibility. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Questions? Call Vicky 786-7227.

**Looking Ahead:**

May 22: Confirmation Sunday

LIFT Hour (final until fall)

End of School Year Picnic

June 1: Pints & Parables - 6 bears & a goat

June 5: Begin Summer Schedule (Worship at 8:30 & 10)

June 12-16: VBS & Adult Camp

June 21-24: Middle School Retreat at Massanetta

June 24: Movie Night - The Birds

July 17-23: Montreat Youth Conference

July 31: Movie Night

