

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

5th Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

10:00 a.m.

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude "Piano Sonata No. 10 in C Major, 3rd Movement K330" Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Call to Worship

We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

***This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.***

This is the Day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Hymn 624

"I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art, my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotent in every place:
so come, O King, and our whole being sway; shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the life, by which alone we live, and all our substance and our strength receive;
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power, and give us strength in every trying hour.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness; no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee, that we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in thee; our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
that in thy strength we evermore endure.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

***Almighty God, you have sent Jesus Christ as the light of the world,
exposing the lies that we tell,
revealing the falsehoods that we perpetuate,
unveiling the evil deeds that we have done,
and shining your light on what we have hidden in the shadows.***

***We hurt one another,
distort the damage by speaking untruths,
and resist the honesty of your love.***

In the name of Christ, we boldly ask for mercy.

Cancel our sin. Cleanse us from all lawlessness.

***Restore us to walk in fellowship with you and one another;
through Jesus Christ, the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Amen.***

- * Silent Confession
- * Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace
- * Easter Response 587 ***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

A Time with Children

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Sermon: "The Evidence of Perfect Love"

Rev. Carter

Easter Series: The Shape of Love

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

- 1 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.
- 2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore 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.
- 4 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.

Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith, section 1

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,**

suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

**vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Offering

Offertory

“Morning from Peer Gynt”

Edvard Grieg

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Prayers of the People and the 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.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 529

“Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether”

- 1 Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.
- 2 As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! so now bind our friendship up.
- 3 All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“Kind im Einschlummern/Der Dichter spricht”

From Scenes from Childhood Op. 15

Robert Schumann

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgists	Candy and Heather Lyons
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Pianist	Nathaniel Worrell

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Family Announcements

Thank you for joining us for Worship. We worship every Sunday in two ways!

- **Have you had your vaccines?** [Make a reservation with our office](#) (570-586-6306) and join us in person at 10:00 a.m.
- Tune in online for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

FEMA is currently accepting applications to reimburse up to \$9000 for Covid-19 related funeral expenses. The original article (from Boston Globe) and the FEMA link are below.

<https://www.boston.com/news/coronavirus/2021/04/08/fema-coronavirus-funeral-expenses>

www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance

Are you still looking for a vaccine? Countryside Community Church will host a public COVID-19 vaccination event on **Friday, May 7** at the church building, 14011 Orchard Drive, Newton Township (Clarks Summit). To sign up for an appointment, visit www.catemobileunit.com and click on PRE-REGISTER. Select 5/7/21, Countryside Community Church, select a time and complete the registration process. Anyone without internet can call the church office at 570-587-3206 Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. for help. **All residents 16+ are eligible for vaccination.**

Dobson Scholarship: All graduating High School members of the church who plan to further their education are invited to apply for the Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship. To apply, download and complete the application from the church's website (fpccs.org), and mail it by **May 8** to Janet Dobson, 105 Center Lane, N. Abington Twp., PA 18414. The winner will be announced during Graduate Recognition Sunday.

CAMP LACKAWANNA INFORMATION

Summer Camp 2021 Registration is open! Head on over to camp.lackawanna.org to see what programs are being offered this summer and to register your children for camp! Family Camp registration is also open!

DATES	CAMP	AGE GROUP
June 24-27	Family Camp	All Ages
June 28-30	Mini Camp	Ages 6-10
July 4-10	Wet n' Wild	Ages 7-16
July 11-17	Music, Arts and Drama	Ages 7-16
July 11-24	JH/SR 2-week	Completed grades 6-11
July 18-24	Adventure Camp	Completed grades 6-10
July 25-31	Night Owls	Completed grades 3-10
August 1-7	Camp Olympics	Ages 7-16

Our church offers scholarships for all young people who want to go. Check with Jana Schillinger for details.

Camp Lackawanna is actively seeking staff for Summer Camp. In addition to counselors, a cook is also needed. Applications can be filled out at www.camp.lackawanna.org

Mark Your CALENDARS!

Tuesday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to noon, My Brother's Keeper Quilters
return to Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 14 at 7:00 a.m. – Our next Arts Series event will feature
The Susquehanna Valley Brass.

Sunday, May 16 after Worship – “Re-Gathering” **PICNIC** at
Lackawanna State Park

Susquehanna Valley Brass

Live at FPCCS - Friday, May 14 7:00 p.m.

YouTube Broadcast - May 16 4:00 p.m.

The Susquehanna Valley Brass (SVB) will perform an in-person concert at this church on Friday, May 14 at 7:00 PM. The SVB is a dynamic new group comprised of five of NEPA's premiere brass musicians. Locally members of the SVB can be heard performing with the NEPA Philharmonic, Scranton Brass Orchestra, Voodoo Brass Band, and the East Coast Sound Brass Quintet. Members of the group have previously held touring positions performing all across the country with the Monumental Brass Quintet (DC), Bay Street Brass (IN), and the Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass (PA). Several members of the ensemble are committed to the future of the arts and are active educators holding positions at Tunkhannock High School, Bloomsburg University, and Marywood University. This program in particular will survey early Americana including styles found in popular songs, music of the American Armed Services, and Jazz. Members of the Susquehanna Valley Brass are: Kenneth Luckey and Sean Mason on trumpets, Rena Hummel on French horn, Chuck Smith on trombone, and ensemble leader Michael Parker on tuba (pictured).



Those who have been vaccinated (and kids!) are welcome to attend this free concert in person with a reservation made by going to our church website at www.fpccs.org or the church's Facebook page. For others, the concert will be recorded and broadcast on our YouTube channel on Sunday, May 16 at 4 PM. Information on the link will be made available at www.fpccs.org and on the church's Facebook page.

First Presbyterian Church
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