



Wentz's United Church of Christ

3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, PA 19446 610.584.4855

Sunday, April 16th , 2023 10am
2nd Sunday of Easter



“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” – Howard Thurman

PRELUDE

Greeting and Reply

Opening Hymn: "**Thine Is the Glory**" (Green Hymnal-310)

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

Our Church's Mission:

Welcome all into a loving, inclusive faith community,
Seeking to live out the teachings of Jesus,
Building on our own rich history, actively exploring beliefs and assumptions,
and Promoting justice, peace and spiritual growth.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 16

Leader: 1Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

People: 2All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.

Leader: 3But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

People: 4I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.

Leader: 5O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

People: 6My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

Leader: 7I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

People: 8I have set the Lord always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Leader: 9My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

People: 10For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.

Leader: 11You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

14aPeter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], 22“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves

know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an

indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: This is the word of God, to the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

INVOCATION

Worship & Praise through Music

Passing the Peace of Christ

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (Singing) **(Green Hymnal-740)**

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 trespasses **(Debts)**, as we forgive those who trespass against us **(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

Announcements

Offering

Offertory "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise"

We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.

We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.

And we offer up to You the sacrifices of thanksgiving,

And we offer up to You the sacrifices of praise.

Doxology (Praise God from whom all blessings flow)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above the heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost (*Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost*)

Sermonic Hymn: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" (Green Hymnal-393)

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
each other's burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

MESSAGE: "Meant for More" Titus 3: 1-11

live LOVE. give LOVE. be LOVE.



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RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD: "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus!" (Green Hymnal-320)

Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
his the scepter, his the throne:
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood.
Jesus, out of every nation,
has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore?"

Alleluia! heavenly High Priest,
here on earth our help, our stay;
Alleluia! hear the sinful
cry to you from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, hear our plea,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Three-Minute Suggestion:

Please spend the first three minutes with someone who is relatively new to our church family, or new to you. Get to know them like a friend might! THEN take some time with longtime friends. Thanks!

WORSHIP CONTINUES IN FELLOWSHIP:

Join for Coffee and Connections in the Connections Café hosted this week by Eleri Todd.



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