



Wentz's United Church of Christ

3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, PA 19446 610.584.4855

Sunday, April 23rd 2023 10am
Third Sunday of Easter

redeemed
BY CHRIST

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us" – Saint Augustine

PRELUDE:

Greeting and Reply

Opening Hymn: **Just a Closer Walk (Green Hymnal- 504)**

**1 I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.**

Refrain:

**Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**2 Thro' this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. [Refrain]**

**3 When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. [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:

One: The Lord comes to us this day. Are you ready?

Many: We are ready!

One: The Lord calls us today to be people of justice and mercy.

Many: Our worship is hollow if it focuses only on our own gratification.

One: The Lord challenges us to be people of peace and hope. Are you ready?

Many: We are ready!

One: The Lord asks our words of hope become actions of peace.

All: We are ready to Worship and Praise God who has given us hope and peace.

Hebrew Reading: Psalm 116:1-4;12-19

I love the Lord because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.

² Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

³ The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴ Then I called on the name of the Lord,
“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”

What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?

¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord;

¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.

¹⁶ O Lord, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.

¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

Gospel Reading: *Luke 24:12-21*

¹³ *Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,*

¹⁶ *but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"*

¹⁹ *He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel! Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.*

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:

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: **Higher Ground (Red Hymnal- 469)**

*I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining ev'ry day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."*

Refrain:

*Lord, lift me up, and let me stand
By faith, on heaven's tableland;
A higher plane than I have found,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

*2 My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground. [Refrain]*

*4 I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground." [Refrain]*

MESSAGE: "The good news is that the bad news was wrong." *John 11:32-38*

**The good
news is
that the
bad news
was wrong.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD: "O for a Thousand Tongues" (Green Hymnal-96)

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

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 sponsored this week by Rita and Tony Cipriano.



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