



# Wentz's United Church of Christ

3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, PA 19446 610.584.4855

Sunday, May 7th 2023 10am  
Fifth Sunday of Easter



***“Seeking to forget makes exile all the longer; the secret of redemption lies in remembrance.”***  
– Richard von Weizsaecker

## **PRELUDE:**

Greeting and Reply

Opening Hymn: **It is Well (Green Hymnal- 428)**

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."*

*Refrain (may be sung after final stanza only):  
It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control: that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]*

*My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]*

*O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul. [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: Sing aloud to God our strength!

**Many: Sing the story of our faith.**

One: Sing of God's providential care:

**Many: water in the desert, honey from a rock.**

One: Sing of God's sorrow at our wandering!

**Many: Sing of God's love that calls us anew.**

One: Sing aloud to God our strength.

**All: Let us Worship and Praise God who has given us a song in our hearts.**

### ***Special Music: Bell Choir***

**Hebrew Reading:** Psalm 31:1-5;15-16

*In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.*

<sup>2</sup> *Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily.*

*Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.*

<sup>3</sup> *You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;*

<sup>4</sup> *take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.*

<sup>5</sup> *Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.*

My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

<sup>16</sup> *Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.*

**Epistle Reading:** *1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:2-10*

*<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.<sup>l</sup>*

*<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:*

*“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”*

*<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe*

*“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”*

*<sup>8</sup> and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”  
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

*<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

*<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.*

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: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" (Green Hymnal-80)

He's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hands,  
he's got you and me, sister, in his hands,  
he's got all of us together in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands.

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: **How Great Thou Art (Green Hymnal- 51)**

*Oh Lord, my God  
When I, in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed*

*Refrain*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin [Refrain]*

*When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art [Refrain]*

MESSAGE: "Radically Redeemed."



RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD: "**Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee**"  
(Green Hymnal-420)

Jesus, the very thought of thee  
with sweetness fills my breast;  
but sweeter far thy face to see,  
and in thy presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,  
nor can the the mind recall  
a sweeter sound than thy blest name,  
O Saviour of us all!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn: **My Hope is Built (Green Hymnal- 405)**

*My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*Refrain:*

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]*

*When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found:  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]*

## SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

Deacon: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

Elder: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also, with you.

Elder: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

Elder: Let us give thanks to God.

**People:** It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Pastor Mike: God of us all we acknowledge your many names and we thank you for all that you are and for all that you do in the world.

Therefore, with all your people gathered in this place we sing your praises and lift your name high:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Rev: Words of Remembrance and Sharing of the Lords Table**

There is one loaf, and we, who are many, are one body. We partake of the one loaf. From it we draw sustenance and life. The loaf connects us to the past, the present and the future. The loaf is the bread of the earth and the bread of heaven. Connecting us to the earth and sky and to each other.

The bread which we break is also our symbol of the body of Christ broken and given to us.

We also drink from the cup. It is the cup of life- sorrow and joy shared each of us in our heart and also shared by our Savior Jesus. The cup over

Sharing of the Lords Table

Benediction



## POSTLUDE

## BENEDICTION

### 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 Jim O'Donnell.*



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June Wright- Organist  
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Matt MacDonald- Technology