



# Wentz's United Church of Christ

3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, PA 19446 610.584.4855

We are Wentz's United Church of Christ, an open and affirming congregation, where your identity and being are cherished. We respectfully welcome all without exception, including those of all races, ethnicities, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and family structures. Together we create an open and active community. Everyone is invited to walk with us in our journey. You are welcome here. Whomever, wherever, at all times.  
You. Are. Simply. Welcomed.

Sunday, May 14th 2023 10am  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day Worship Celebration



*“Rest is not an occasional reward for good work. Rest is a prerequisite for good work” – Phillip Pointer*

## **PRELUDE:**

Greeting and Reply

Opening Hymn: **Joyful, Joyful (Green Hymnal- 59)**

*Joyful, joyful, we adore You,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,  
Op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!*

*All Your works with joy surround You,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around You,  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Praising You eternally!*

*Always giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,  
Let Your light upon us shine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.*

*Mortals, join the mighty chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
Joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.*

### **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: All who gather here is a daughter or son.

**Many: We praise God for the women who gave us life.**

One: For mothers and all who have stepped into the role of mother, who are vulnerable, worried, frustrated and hurried,

**Many: We pray for peace.**

One: For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

**Many: We pray for joy.**

One: For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for the adoptive process to be fulfilled,

**All: We wait eagerly with you, and offer you our hand to hold.**

One: Loving and nurturing God, we thank you for the wonder of your mothering: protecting, providing and being present with us day by day. May all of us have the comfort of knowing that your mothering love is constant, your understanding is perfect, and your compassion is never-ending.

**All: We thank you that you created all of us with delight and joy, Lord in your mercy mother us all with your love. AMEN!**

## *Special Music: Intergenerational Bell Ringers*

### **Hebrew Reading: Genesis 16: 1-6**

**16** Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave whose name was Hagar, <sup>2</sup> and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the LORD has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. <sup>3</sup> So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife.

<sup>4</sup> He went in to Hagar, and she conceived, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. <sup>5</sup> Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!" <sup>6</sup> But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

### **Gospel Reading: John 14: 15-21**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep<sup>[a]</sup> my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,<sup>[b]</sup> to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be<sup>[c]</sup> in<sup>[d]</sup> you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

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*)

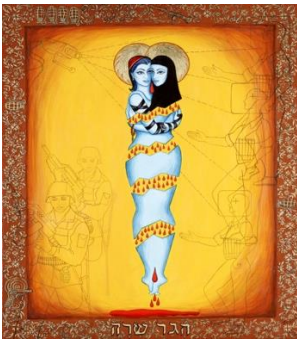
Sermonic Hymn: **Come Thou Fount (Green Hymnal- 68)**

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.*

MESSAGE: "Two Mothers and the Problematic Promise" *Genesis 16:7-13*



RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD: **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
(Green Hymnal- 358)**

*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.*

*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.*

## 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 the youth of Wentz's.*

### ***THIS WEEK:***

*SUNDAY: 5/14*

*Worship – 10am*

*Happy Mother's Day!*

*MONDAY: 5/15*

*AA Group (Women) – 6:30pm*

*TUESDAY: 5/16*

*Journey Band/Choir Practice – 5:45pm*

*Resounding Ringers – 7:00pm*

*AA Living Sober – 7:30pm*

*WEDNESDAY: 5/17*

*Stars of Tomorrow Rehearsal- 6:00pm*

*AA Meeting (Co-Ed) – 6:30pm*

*THURSDAY: 5/18*

*Stars of Tomorrow Rehearsal- 6:00pm*

*AA Meeting – 7:30pm*

*FRIDAY: 5/19*

*AA Meeting (Men) – 8:00pm*

*SATURDAY: 5/20*

*Stars of Tomorrow Open Mic Fundraiser*

*Bring a friend with you next Sunday!*

*Take them out to lunch! Have a better day!*

*If you would like to schedule time with Rev either in-person or Zoom, please contact Mike via email to be placed on his calendar. [office@wentzsucc.org](mailto:office@wentzsucc.org)*

***LOOKING AHEAD:***

*Pentecost Sunday: 5/28*

*Everyone wear something red!*

*June is LGBTQ Pride Month*

*6/4/23: Celebrating our High School Graduates*

*6/11/23: Church Picnic*

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*6/18: Father's Day Worship Celebration*

*6/19: Juneteenth*





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[rev@wentzsucc.org](mailto:rev@wentzsucc.org)

Ruth Geisel – Consistory President/Elder  
Mike Todd- Deacon/Pastoral Assistant  
Corey Taragna- Lead Trustee  
Donna Mower – Guild President  
June Wright- Organist  
Laura McLennan and Jim O'Donnell- Music Dept  
Matt MacDonald- Technology