**May 1, 2016 8:30 & 10:45**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Today’s Scripture readings remind us that Christian faith is about relationships: the believer living in God, and God living with us and in us. Such a relationship can never be “forced.” It can only come through freedom of choice

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music** 10:45For a copy of *Worship & Song at 10:45*, see an usher.

**Hymnal #439** 8:30O Master, let me walk with thee *Maryton*

**Prelude** 10:45Concerto for Strings and Basso Continuo in C Minor RV 120*A. Vivaldi*

I.Allegro non molto

Concerto for Strings and Basso Continuo in G Major RV. 151 *A. Vivaldi*

I.Presto; II. Adagio; III. Allegro

**Greeting**

Leader: Let God grant us grace and bless us; let God’s face shine upon us, so that

 God’s way becomes known on earth, and God’s salvation among all the nations.

**People: Let the people thank you, O God! Let all the people thank you!**

*Psalm 67:1-2*

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45 *John Rutter*

I will worship the Lord all the days of my life;

I will tell of his glory and will show forth his praise;

I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my stronghold. Alleluia.

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: Call on the name of God,

**People: For God has called us by name.**

Pastor**:** Lift your eyes and see,

**People: For Christ is in this place.**

Pastor: Know that God is near,

**People: For the Spirit lives in each of us gathered here.**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\***Hymnal** **428** For the healing of the nations *Cwm Rhondda*

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Jesus, our Savior, you promised your disciples that God would send the Holy Spirit in your name, reminding them of your teachings and leading them forward into new truths yet to be revealed. We have heard the mighty acts of those who received the gift of your promised Holy Spirit, and we are amazed. We dare to invite this same Holy Spirit into our lives, to teach us and to guide us, that we too may learn of God’s love and justice. By the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, may your word make a home in us today. Amen.**

**… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

 Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
 People: And also with you.

Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

 This, this is where children belong,

 welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

 Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

 This is where children belong.

 WORDS AND MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the Sanctuary near the end of the service.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Hymnal 623** Here, O my Lord, I see thee*Penitentia*

*\*please rise in body or spirit*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Marda Katshir

 10:45 Scott Ullman

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 Revelation 21:1-10, 22 – 22:5 A new heaven and a new earth

**Worship & Song 3094** (seated)Come to me *Come to me*

 **Come to me; come to me, weak and heavy laden;**

 **trust in me, lean on me. I will give you rest.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

 \*A Lesson from the Gospels

 John 14:23-29 The coming of the Holy Spirit is promised

 **Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 : *Will Todd*

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures

and leads me beside still waters. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord.

Though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me;

your rod and your staff comfort me. You are my shepherd. Surely your goodness and loving mercy

shall follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord. You are my shepherd

**\*Doxology 94**

 Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

 Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

 Praise God the source of all our gifts!

 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “The S-Factor” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Hymn of Preparation** You feed us, gentle Savior*Worship & Song #3169*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God..

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

 Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words. . . )*

Therefore, with all your faithful people from every time and place we join the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

 (Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25)

**People:** **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. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words . . .)*

As we affirm the mystery of faith.

**People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words . . .)* Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, to all eternity.

**People: Amen.**

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

**Anthem** 10:45 Ave verum*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

*Translation*: Jesus, word of God incarnate, of the Virgin Mary born;

on the cross thy sacred body for us with nails was torn.

Cleanse us by the blood and water streaming from thy pierced side.

Feed us with thy body broken, now and in death's agony.

**Instrumental Meditation:** Concerto for Strings and Basso Continuo in *A. Vivaldi*

 C Minor RV 151: III. Largo

**Prayer following Communion (in unison)**

 **Deep, flowing mystery of God, gentle, life-giving grace of God, we have immersed ourselves in you.**

 **With Jesus, we trust your Spirit in us, and we hear your calling.**

 **By your summons, we rise, we follow, and we serve you, in the living,**

 **breathing spirit of Christ. Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**\*Hymn 670** Go forth for God *Geneva*

**Benediction**

**Postlude** 10:45 Concerto for Strings and Basso Continuo in C Minor RV. 151 *A. Vivaldi*

III. Allegro

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given in loving memory of our parents by Edward and Bette Lou Reichard.

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Linda Nixon in loving memory of her husband, Bud Nixon.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir and the following guest instrumentalists whose presence is made possible through contributions to the Friends of Music Fund. To donate to the Fund, mark your check "MLUMC - Friends of Music Fund."

 Violin: Cara Garofalo, Patrick Forsyth, Leah Givelber, Rasa Mahmoudian

 Viola: Brendan Banerdt, Marylene Gingras-Roy

 Cello: Katya Janpoladyan, Robin Hasenpflug

 Bass: Amanda Rick-Johnston

**Our hymnal** and the new hymnal supplement are rich resources. As we explore newer texts and tunes we will repeat them during the month so that we are more comfortable singing them.

**Greeters 8:30** Francie Robb **10:45**  Bradley, Laura, Emily and Evan Shoff

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Revelation 21:1-10, 22 – 22:5**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

2And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

4he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

5And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

7Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. 8But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

9Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

10And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

22 1Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

2through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

3Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him;

4they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

5And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

**John 14:23-29**

23Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

24Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

25”I have said these things to you while I am still with you.

26But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

27Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

28You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.

29And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Betty Lou Albright, Providence Point

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ruth Bloss, Providence Point

Jean Bouvy, McMurray Hills Manor

Howard DeWald, Providence Point

Bob Fairgrieve, Providence Point

Mary Garber, Providence Point

Margie Jellison, Townview, Canonsburg

Helen Manning, The Pines

Kate McDade, Paramount, Bethel Park

Jane Morton, Sunrise, Upper St. Clair

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Andy Smith, Concordia

**Convalescing at Home**

Joyce Feldman, Ann Hoyer

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Capt. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick
PFC Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda
Lt. Col. Mark Patterson

Lt. Com. Scott Patterson

Lt. Col. Sean Patterson
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes
Capt. Azizi Wesmiller

Capt. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons** Would you like to share this morning’s sermon with a friend or did you miss a Sunday? Catch up on the messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons from the past three months are at http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com. You can navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, www.mlumc.org, through the app, Stitcher or through iTunes.

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, MAY 1 THRU SATURDAY, MAY 7**

**SUNDAY 5/1**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café Various/Brookline Parlor

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 5 pm Youth Group 4th Floor Youth Room

 7:30 pm Handbell Concert Rehearsal Asbury

**MONDAY 5/2**

 6:30 pm Tiger Cub Scouts Epworth

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Asbury

**TUESDAY 5/3**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Church Council Mixers Room

 7 pm Boy Scout Planning Epworth Chapel

**WEDNESDAY 5/4**

6:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Kitchen

6 pm Homebuilders Picnic Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 5/5**

 8:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Kitchen

 9:30 pm Hands & Hearts Epworth

 12 pm TNT Asbury Heights

 7 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 5/6**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

 7:30 pm Berries ‘N’ Bells Asbury Center

**SATURDAY 5/7**

 10 am Food Distribution Food Pantry