**April 15, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Like the preachers, teachers and martyrs of first-century Christianity, there have been witnesses in our own time who have stood tall in times of testing. Being called by Christ to be a witness to Christ is the church's true identity.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

8:30 **Hymnal 710 Faith of our fathers** *St. Catherine*

10:45 Promise Bells A Joyful Ring *Barbara Kinyon*

**Greeting**

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45*Karl Erickson*

 Alleluia! Our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death 2 Timothy 1:10

 and brought life and immortality through the Gospel. Alleluia!

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Praise God in the sanctuary.

**People: Praise God in the mighty firmament.**

Leader: Praise God with trumpet and horn.

**People: Praise God with lute and harp.**

Leader: Praise God with tambourine and dance.

**People: Praise the Lord with strings and pipes.**

Leader: Praise God with clashing cymbals.

**People: Praise God with beating drums.**

Leader: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

**People: Praise the Lord.** *Psalm 150*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 108** **God hath spoken by the prophets** (standing) *Ebenezer*

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Eternal God, who was and is and is to come, you are Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end. In you, O God, we live, and move, and have our being. Be the foundation of our strength, as we seek to bring your kingdom here on earth. Like Thomas before us, we long to believe in the power of your resurrection, but so many fears and doubts remain. Be the foundation of our courage and our hope, as we proclaim your glory for all to hear. We ask this in the name of the one who conquered the grave to bring us eternal life. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3119** *Take, O take*

 **Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;**

 **Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Text © 1995, The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Used under OneLicense A-728761

**… 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.

 Text ©1999 Abingdon Press. Used under OneLicense A-728761

**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 …**

**Handbell Anthem** 10:45 Oh, how He loves you and me *Kurt Kaiser, arr. Kevin McChesney*

 Chapel Bells

Scripture Reading 8:30 Kathy Tremblay

 10:45 Barbara Watson

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 1 John 3:1-7 On becoming children of God

**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.**

**Gospel Acclamation Alleluia**  *James Chepponi*

 (sing “Alleluial” 6 times following the choir, standing)

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospels

 Luke 24:36b-48 Jesus appears to the disciples

 **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 *Scottish traditional tune, arr. Hal H. Hopson*

 Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,

the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.

The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round;

then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

 Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;

your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.

We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound;

together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

 Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.

We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow; but waiting not for places,

you meet us all around. Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

**Hymnal 94 Doxology** (standing) *Lasst uns erfreuen*

 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 Witness Principle” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**A Modern Affirmation**  UMH #885

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is,

 there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal,

 whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: We believe in God the Father,**

 **infinite in wisdom, power and love,**

 **whose mercy is over all his works,**

 **and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

 **We believe in Jesus Christ,**

 **Son of God and Son of man,**

 **the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,**

 **the ground of our hope,**

 **and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**

 **We believe in the Holy Spirit**

 **as the divine presence in our lives,**

 **whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance**

 **of the truth of Christ,**

 **and find strength and help in time of need.**

 **We believe that this faith should manifest itself**

 **in the service of love**

 **as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,**

 **to the end**

 **that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 508** **Faith, while trees are still in blossom** (standing) *For the bread*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Beverly Festor in celebration of her husband Robert's upcoming birthday on April 21st. Robert is a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

**The flowers in the chance**l are given by Robert Simonton in loving memory of his parents, Lee and Ruth, and his grandparents.

**The flowers at the columbarium** are given in loving remembrance of our friend Elizabeth from Cindy and Kathleen.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Promise Bells and the Chapel Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz; and the Chancel Choir with accompanist Mary Paine who teaches piano in the area.

**Greeters 8:30** Fran Travis **10:45**  Fern Frank and Gloria Barber

**Acolytes** Cameron and Luke Grabowski

**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**

**1 John 3:1-7**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.3And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.5You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. 7Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

**Luke 24:36b-48**

36While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” 40And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43and he took it and ate in their presence. 44Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,46and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $30 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $60 for the chancel.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http:// mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

***CONVERSATIONS* BOOK CLUB**

4 weeks beginning Tuesday, May 8, 2018 1:15-2:30 pm Brookline Parlor

***Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*** by Jeanne Guyon

a modern translation of *A Short and Easy Method of Prayer; Praying the Heart of the Father*

Have you ever been curious about the dynamics and balance between meditation as prayer, praying without thoughts, as compared with thought-based prayers of words? Author and theologian Dallas Willard recommends a book written in the 17th Century by Madam Guyon of Lyons, France, ***Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ***. According to the book jacket, John Wesley recommended it to his contemporaries. Our purposes will be to investigate, reflect, and, discuss our thoughts together. A variety of teas will be offered.

Questions? Wish to participate? Please email or call Cindy Biery cbiery1018@gmail.com

412-831-7675. If you plan to participate, please let her know no later than April 18. A book will be ordered for you in time for advance reading. Pick up will be at the church office.

**Caregivers Needed** Do you like to rock babies, read stories to preschoolers, or make crafts with school-age children?  If so, you are needed on Sunday mornings!  Volunteer as a substitute teacher 9:30-10:30, or as a nursery, preschool, or Kids Praise helper during the 10:45 service.  Your commitment is once per month or less, and no special skills are required.

Please contact Kim Rhoton to volunteer or with questions – krhoton@mlumc.org.

**Work with the Children of Weekday Ministries** Weekday Ministries needs two staff persons: a lead teacher to work with one-year-olds from 7 am to 3 pm every day and a 3 pm to 6 pm person to work with two-year-olds.

Please contact Mettelise at 412-531-5790 or email mziegler@mlumc.org today for more information!

**Keep In Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Maxine Furedy, St. Clair

Stephen Hahn, St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Marda Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Fred Siersdorfer, Friendship Village

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

David Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

Jinny Sheppard, Betty Trout

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick

PFC Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**In Sympathy**

Condolences are offered to the family of church member Harry Daniel “Dan” Van Sickle, who passed away on April 2, 2018. Prayers can be sent to the family:

 Lee Van Sickle

 155 Cypress Dr.

 Pittsburgh, PA 15241

 Lori Van Sickle Barr

 513 Long Drive

 Pittsburgh, PA 1524

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, APRIL 15 THRU SATURDAY, APRIL 22**

**SUNDAY 4/15**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

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

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 5 pm Youth Group Asbury Center

 6:30 pm BSA Board of Reviews Various

**MONDAY 4/16**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Children’s Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

 7:30 pm Community Events & Outreach Committee Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 4/17**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

**WEDNESDAY 4/18**

 7 pm Cub Scout Pack Asbury Center

 7 pm Trustees Wesley Hall

 7 pm UMW Koinonia Circle Welcome Center

**THURSDAY 4/19**

 12 pm UMW Rebecca Circle 900 Washington Rd. Mary Birk’s house

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 4/20**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

**SATURDAY 4/21**

 10 am Food Distribution and Food Lift Free Market Food Pantry