**May 6, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

We are an Easter people, invited to trust God faithfully, and to love others fully. John’s gospel tells us that we love God and remain true to Jesus only as we love one another. Easter demands that we live in God’s ever-widening circle of love.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music Hymn Remain in my love**

**Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Remain in my love, remain in my love**.

**Worship & Song 3188 Take this moment, sign, and space** (stanza 1) *Take this moment*

**Greeting**

 Leader: Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.

**People: Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,**

 **and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”**

*Psalm 148:1, 13*

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45*John Ness Beck*

 How awesome is this place!

 There is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: Come to the household of love, for God is love.

**People: As we abide in love, we abide in God.**

Pastor: Come to the vineyard of grace, for God is gracious.

**People: As we abide in the vine, we bear the fruit of salvation.**

Pastor: Come bathe in baptismal waters, for God’s Spirit awaits.

**People: As we abide in God’s Spirit, we abide in peace.**

Pastor: Come to the household of love, for God is love.

**People: Come! All are welcome here.**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 57 O for a thousand tongues to sing**  (stanzas 1, 3, 5, standing) *Azmon*

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

**Merciful One, you teach us that perfect love casts out fear, but we are often afraid; you command us to love our sisters and brothers, but we are often alienated from one another; you invite us to abide in you as you abide in us, but we often don’t know how or where to begin. Show us once more that abiding in your love is as easy and natural as a branch abiding in the vine. Prune our imperfections, that we may grow a heart so strong that all our fears will be cast out, leaving us ready and able to abide in your great love. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3118 Take this moment, sign, and space** (stanza 1, seated)  *Take this moment*

 **Take this moment, sign, and space; take my friends around;**

 **here among us make the place where your love is found.**

**… 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 …**

**Hymn**   **Remain in my love**  (John 15: 9-15, seated) *Christopher Willcock*

(All sing the refrainin response as the choir sings stanzas 1-5*)*

 **All: Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.**

 **Remain in my love, remain in my love**.

Scripture Reading 8:30 Liz DiPietro 10:45 Joyce Magill

 A Lesson from the Epistles

 1 John 5:1-6 The victory that conquers the world

**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 Chepponis*

 (sing “Alleluia” 6 times following the pastor/choir, standing)

Scripture Reading A Lesson from the Gospels

 John 15:9-17 Greater love has no one than this

 **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 *arranged by Dan Forrest*

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

E’en though it be a cross that raiseth me.

Still all my song shall be nearer, my God, to Thee!

Oh, let the way appear, leading to heav’n;

all that Thou sendest me, in mercy giv’n.

Thy Spirit beckons me, nearer, my God to Thee,

nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee.

There in my Father's home, safe and at rest,

there in my Savior's love, perfectly blest.

Age after age to be nearer, my God to Thee!

Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee.

**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** “Living the Great Commandment” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Worship & Song #3167** **Feed us, Lord** (stanza 1, seated) *Feed Us*

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**

 *During the distribution of the Elements, join the choir singing the first 3 stanzas of hymns beginning with 612, omitting 615*

 **Prayer following Communion**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 111 How can we name a Love** (standing) *Terra beata*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by Edward and Bette Lou Reichard in honor of their grandchildren.

**The flowers on the altar** are given in honor of Kathleen Whittaker, Kirby Dilworth, and all of the musicians who help us make beautiful music.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir with soloists Kirby Dilworth and Kathleen Whittaker; pianist Cori DeLuca and cellist Lisa Kohanski. The presence of Ms. Kohanski is made possible through the many contributors to the Friends of Music Fund.

**Greeters 8:30** George Lindow **10:45**  Chuck and Brenda Vogel

**Acolytes** Cameron Grabowski and Abigail Nagle

**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.

**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.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**1 John 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

**John 15:9-17**

9As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you.15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**Conversations Book Club** 4 weeks beginning Tuesday, May 8, 2018, from 1:15 to 2:30 pm in Brookline Parlor, reading ***Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*** by Jeanne Guyon. The book is 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 so that a book can be ordered in time for advance reading. Pick up will be at the church office.

**Work with the Children of Weekday Ministries** Weekday Ministries needs two staff persons: a teacher to work with preschool age children from 10 am to 6 pm every day and a 3 pm to 6 pm person to work with one-year-olds. Please contact Mettelise at 412-531-5790 or email mziegler@mlumc.org today for more information!

**Keep In Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

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,

John Dean, Joseph Festor,

David Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

Jinny Sheppard, Betty Trout

Keith Will

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

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

Sgt. 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

**Gratitude**

Pastor Tom and Friends,

 Thank you for your cards, prayers, visits and condolences over the passing of our Dad. All were deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

 Sincerely,

 Lee A. Van Sickle

 and Lori & Dan Barr

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, MAY 6 THRU SATURDAY, MAY 12**

**SUNDAY 5/6**

 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

 12 pm Youth Service Day Asbury Center

 4 pm Seraphic Singers Sanctuary

**MONDAY 5/7**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Church Council Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 5/8**

 1:15 pm Conversations Book Club Brookline Parlor

 7 pm Divorce Recovery Group Welcome Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Boy Scout Board of Reviews Room 105

 7 pm Cub Scout Planning Epworth Chapel

**WEDNESDAY 5/9**

 7 pm Bear, Tiger and Wolf Cub Scouts Various

 7:30 pm Finance Committee Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 5/10**

 9:30 am UMW Board Meeting Room 105

 11 am UMW Meeting Asbury Center

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Education Committee Brookline Parlor

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 5/11**

 1:30 pm Memoirs Group Wesley Hall

 7 pm Cub Scouts Arrow of Light Epworth Chapel