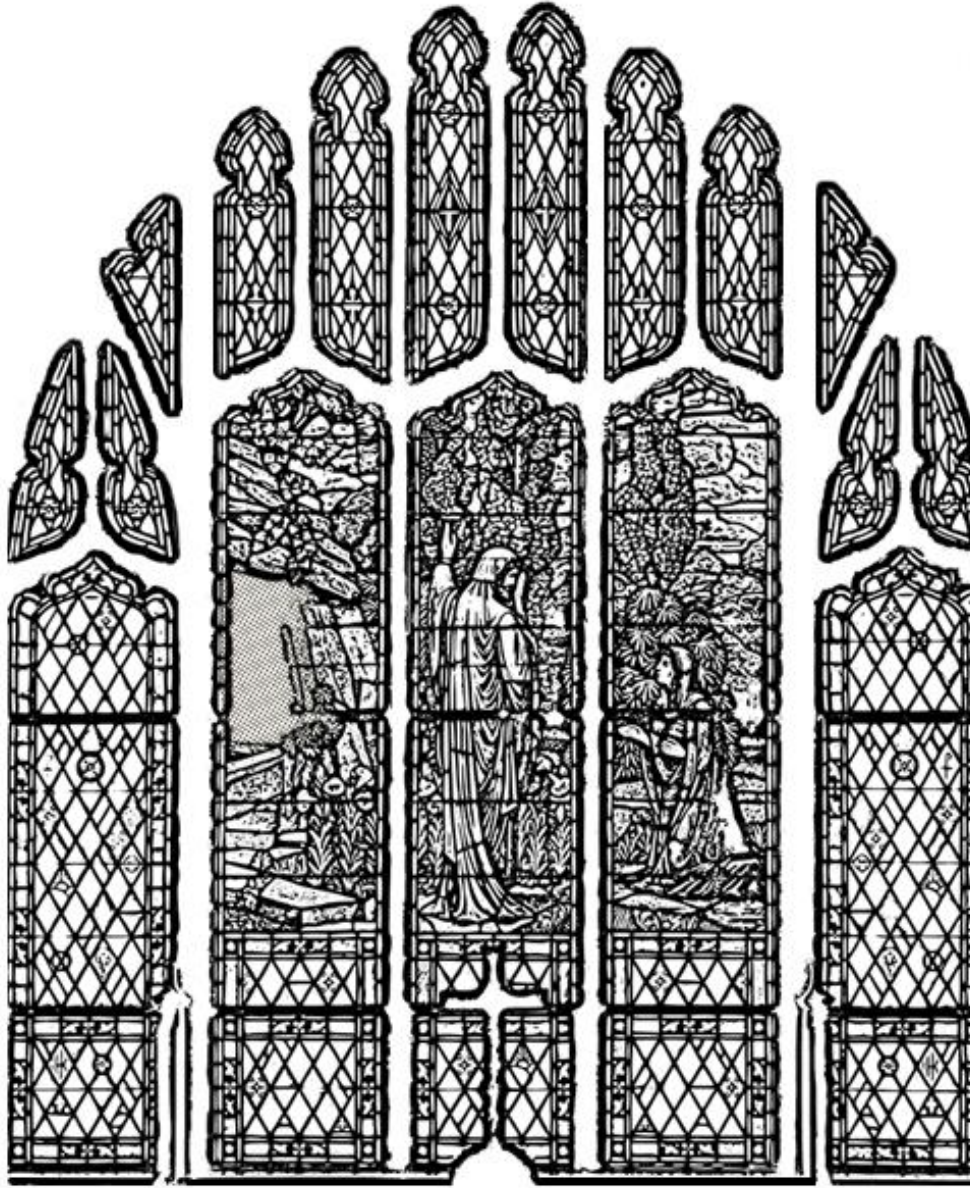


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, April 28, 2024, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

With Celebration of Holy Baptism

3319 WEST LIBERTY AVENUE ... PITTSBURGH, PA 15216 ... 412-531-7131

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, PASTOR ... tstrandburg@mlumc.org



Sunday, April 28, 2024 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter & Celebration of Holy Baptism

Abiding in Christ means living in love. As long as we abide in Jesus, we will produce fruit for the kingdom. But we have to remember that our concern isn't the fruit - that's the job of the Holy Spirit. Our job is to remain in Christ so He can nourish us.

**Indicates an invitation to stand in spirit or posture, as able.*

The Prelude

The Introit (10:45)

Introit for the Fifth Sunday after Easter

Healey Willan

ANTIPHON: With the voice of singing declare ye and tell this;
utter it even to the end of the earth, alleluia!
The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob, alleluia!
V. Make a joyful noise unto God all ye lands:
sing forth the honor of his name; make his praise glorious.
R. Glory be... *The Antiphon is repeated.*

At the sound of the chimes, all rise, in either body or spirit, for the procession.

*Opening Hymn

"Take my life, and let it be"

UMH 399

*Call to Worship

V Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

R **We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.**

V We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

R **We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.**

V When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

R **We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.**

V Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

R **We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work,
and build community with God and one another. Amen.**

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

Merciful One,

You know when we are afraid to love;

You know when we are too cowardly to show mercy.

Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears.
Surround us and strengthen us with Your perfect love,
even in the face of our imperfections.
Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection,
that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love.
Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

Gloria Patri

UMH 71

Sacrament of Baptism (10:45am)

UMH 39

Grace Caroline Johnson

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Grace Caroline with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in his service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple, who walks in the way that leads to life.

CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

☩. Do you believe in God the Father?

℟. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

☩. Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**℟. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

☩. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**℟. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE COMMENDATION AND WELCOME:

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you in the body of Christ
and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

A Message for Young Disciples (10:45 am)

As the young disciples gather at the front of the church, all sing:

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

The young disciples (3 yr. - 3rd grade) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise.

Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service.

The First Lesson

A Reading from the First Letter of John

1 JN. 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in

love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"Jesus, keep me near the Cross"

UMH 301

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

JN. 15:1-8

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

**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, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

***The Sign of Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*The people are now invited to share signs of peace with their fellow members of Christ’s body.
Extended conversation would ideally and most appropriately be reserved until the end of the service.*

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) “Be thou my vision” UMH 451

The Anthem (10:45 am) *Jesu, grant me this I pray* C.H. Kitson (1874-1944)

<i>Jesu, grant me this, I pray, Ever in Thy heart to stay; Let me evermore abide hidden in Thy wounded side.</i>	<i>If the evil one prepare— or the world—a tempting snare, I am safe when I abide in Thy heart and wounded side.</i>	<i>If the flesh, more dangerous still, Tempt my soul to deeds of ill, Naught I fear when I abide in Thy heart and wounded side.</i>	<i>Death will come one day to me; Jesu, cast me not from Thee: Dying, let me still abide in Thy heart and wounded side.</i>
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***The Doxology UMH 94**

***The Prayer of Dedication**

***The Sending Hymn "Make me a captive, Lord" UMH 421**

***The Dismissal**

∇. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. **Thanks be to God.**

***The Benediction**

***The Postlude & Recessional**

The people remain in place until the altar party has retired.

Please remember in prayer:

Convalescing in care facilities

Priscilla Utzig, Providence Point
Carol Fairgrieve, Providence Point

Convalescing at home

Bishop George Bashore
Jean Boyer
Don Langston
Susan Lichtenfels
Carol Van Sickle
Dawn Lonsinger

Serving in the military

Jason Boyer
SPC Natalie Brown
PFC William Dilla III
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch
1Lt. Shaun Hay
LCpl. Wyatt Hoover
James Iantelli
1Lt. Jaskiewicz
Sgt. Keith Kimmell
Sgt. Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan
Thomas Orda
David Poncel
Sgt. Steven Reitz
LTC Scott B. Rushe
Pvt. Max Siegert
Pastor Rick Townes
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller
LTC Matthew Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski
Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

Leaders in Worship this Morning

TREY *and* KALEB KNABB, ACOLYTES

J.J. KNABB, CROSS BEARER

LIZ DIPINETRO (8:30AM) AND JUDITH PHELPS (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MS. TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, STAFF MEZZO-SOPRANO

MR. KIRBY DILWORTH, STAFF TENOR

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, MINISTER OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

THE REV'D SCOTT A.F. MILLER, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by

Lavisa Ward

in loving memory of

her husband, Bill.

*For information about furnishing altar flowers for future services,
contact Lizzie Diller at 412-860-3614. The cost is \$45 per arrangement.*