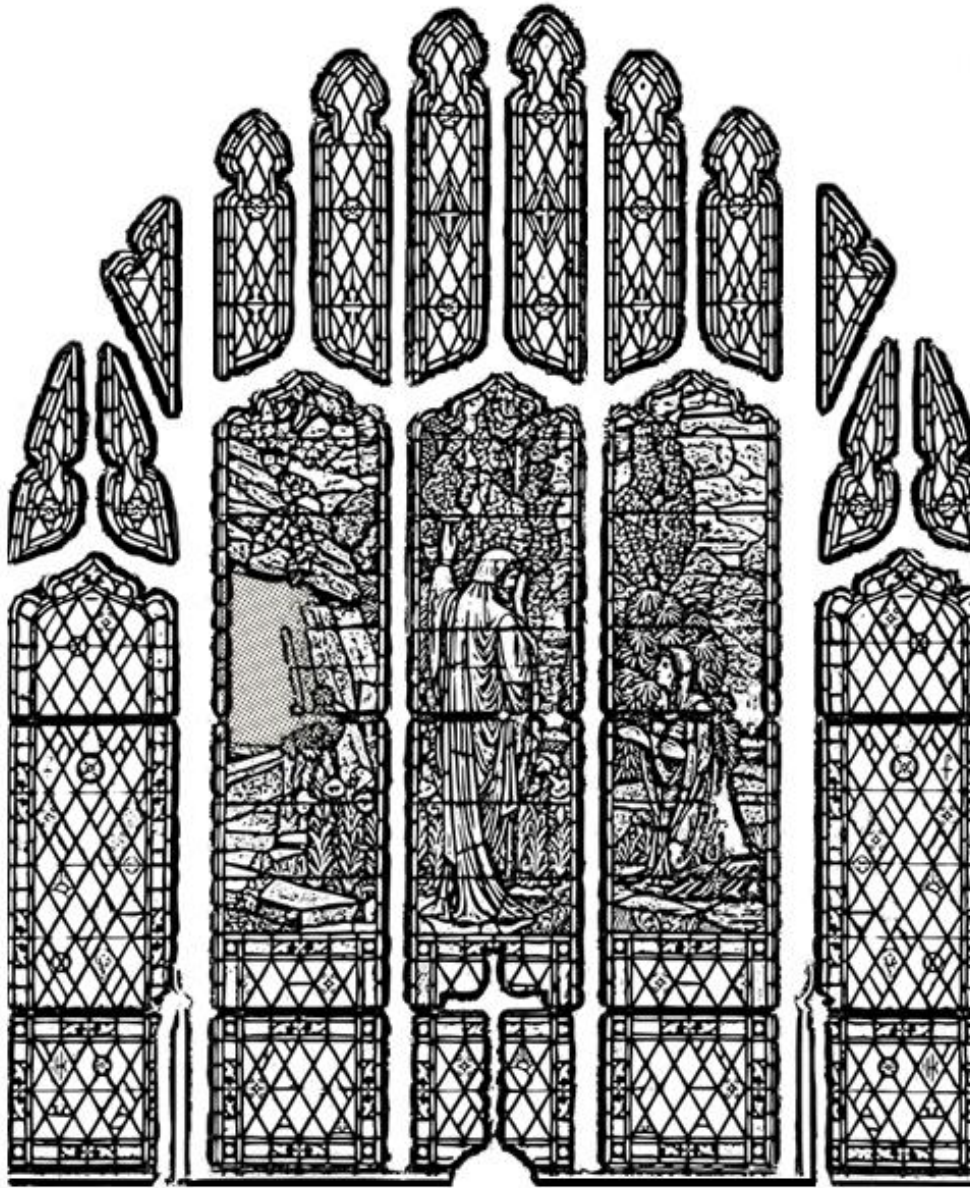


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, May 5, 2024, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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



Sunday, May 5, 2024 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sometimes it looks like the world is winning in the great struggle of life. And our Lord's victory won't be fully revealed until he returns, or we find ourselves face-to-face with God. In the meantime, we can rest assured that the world will never conquer us if Christ is on our side.

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

The Prelude

In Unity and Love

Nancy Galbraith (b.1951),
Arr. C. Cooman

*Today's prelude and postlude are the first in a multi-week series celebrating our "Zwicksburgh" partnership.
For more information, see the 'Music Note' at the rear of the bulletin.*

The Introit (10:45)

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort

Johann Wolfgang Franck (1644-1710)

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort;

O let me ne'er in sorrow pine.

My heart, my soul—yea, all my being,

O Jesus, trust alone in Thee.

Thou Prince of Peace, Thou Pearl from heaven,

True God, true Man, My Morning Star.

O come, Thou precious Sun most radiant,

Thy beams illumine my heart, my soul.

O Jesus, with thine advent

quiet my restless soul and anxious mind.

In true humility I welcome Thee,

Jesus Christ, my Joy divine.

My thoughts, desires, and all my longing,

I dedicate, O Christ, to Thee.

O come, Thou precious Sun most radiant,

Thy beams illumine my heart, my soul.

As the chimes sound following the introit, all rise, in either body or spirit, for the procession.

*Opening Hymn

"This is my song"

UMH 437

*Call to Worship

∞ Easter people, Jesus chose you and calls you friend!

℞ **We abide in Christ because Christ abides in us.**

∞ Jesus made a home among us to show us how to love.

℞ **We abide in Love because Love abides in us.**

∞ Jesus invites us in and beckons us to come to the Table to know the joy that comes when we love one another the way God loves us.

℞ **We abide in Joy because Joy abides with us.**

∞ Easter people, Jesus welcomes you home!

℞ **We come to make our home with God and one another, bound together by Love and enlivened by Joy. Amen.**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**In the daylight, in the darkness;
in the clamor, in the silence;
in the thinking, in the feeling;
in the head-knowledge and the heart-wisdom;
in ages past and time present,
you have spoken to your people, O Lord.
Even now, in this time, in this place, we say:
“Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.”
Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“We know that Christ is raised and dies no more”

UMH 610

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

I JN. 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. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This 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.

**Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: Thanks be to God.**

***Hymn**

"We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord" TFWS2223

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. We are one in the spirit,
we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the spirit,
we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity
may one day be restored. | 2. We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the
news that God is in our land. | 3. We will work with each other,
we will work side by side.
We will work with each other,
we will work side by side.
And we'll guard human dignity
and save human pride. |
|---|---|---|

***Refrain:* And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

JN. 15:9-17

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I 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. You 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**The Pastoral Prayer, The Lord's Prayer, and
Missional Prayer for Peace in the Middle East**

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.**

God of mercy and compassion,
of grace and reconciliation,
pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East:
Jews, Muslims and Christians,
Palestinians and Israelis.
Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope,
oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation,
that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces,
and peace and justice could be experienced by all.
Amen.

Musical Meditation **“Calm to the waves, calm to the wind”**

*See inserted,
sung several times.*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics: "Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Je - sus whis - pers, 'Peace, be". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics: "still.'" Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In still-ness, hear his voice." The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support, ending with a final chord.

***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.*

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) “Let there be peace on Earth” UMH 431

The Anthem (10:45 am) *If ye love me, keep my commandments* Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the spirit of truth. (Jn. 14:15-17, KJV)

***The Doxology**

UMH 94

***The Prayer of Dedication**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*This morning's communion setting is found beginning at **UMH 24.***

***The Great Thanksgiving**

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ Lift up your hearts.

℞ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

∇ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

℞ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory:
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest!**

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

... all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen!

Giving of the Bread & Cup

Communion Anthem (10:45)

Come, bring your burdens to God

South African Melody,
arr. Welile Sigabi

Come, bring your burdens to God for Jesus will never say no.

Hymn during Communion

"Deck, thyself, my soul, with gladness"

UMH 612

Prayer following Communion

Let those who serve you praise you, O God;

let the true of heart give you thanks.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let the whole earth be in awe of you;

all the inhabitants of the world greet you with joy.

For you spoke, and the wonderful deed was done;

you commanded, and it all came to pass.

Praise to the love that moves the stars and stirs the hearts of the people.

God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,

the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

make us complete in everything good so that we may do your will,

working among us all that is pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ.

Praise God to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

According to the use of the Moravian Church in America

***The Sending Hymn**

"Go forth for God"

UMH 670

***The Dismissal and Blessing**

The Postlude

No. 1 from *Vier Praeludia in F, F, C, C*

J.L. Krebs (1713-1780)

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

"The Music Note"

As Mr. Stecker prepares to go to Germany to lead the inaugural Summer Church Music Workshop through our Zwickau partnership, the preludes and postludes over the coming weeks are all along the theme of "Zwicksburgh", celebrating the music of composers from both of our hometowns. This morning, the prelude is an organ transcription of a choral work by Nancy Galbraith. The original work was written on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, and is a setting of a prayer by Philip Melancthon. Professor Galbraith, a native of Millvale, is a prolific and highly accoladed composer, and holds the Vira I. Heinz endowed chair in the College of Fine Arts, Carnegie Mellon University.

The postlude this morning is by Johann Ludwig Krebs, a favorite student of J.S. Bach's, for whom Bach had such high esteem that he once called him "the only crayfish [krebs] in my stream [bach]". Krebs wrote in a style very similar to that of his teacher, to the extent that many works once attributed to Bach are now thought by scholars to more likely have been written by Krebs. Krebs was for many years the organist at St. Mary's (Lutheran) Church in Zwickau, not far from the Friedenskirche.

Please remember in prayer:

Convalescing in care facilities

Priscilla Utzig, Providence Point
Carol Fairgrieve, Providence Point
Jo Newman, Friendship Village

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

ABIGAIL LOWE, ACOLYTE

DERICK FLORIAN & BOYS, CROSS BEARER

MARCY PICARDI (8:30AM) AND DONNA CHESLEIGH (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MS. BETHANY MINGLE, STAFF MEZZO-SOPRANO

MR. KIRBY DILWORTH, STAFF TENOR

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

*The altar flowers this morning given by
Sonya Reneberg's family
to the glory of God,
and in celebration of her birthday.*

*The flowers in the chancel given by
the Hoffman family
in loving memory of
our mother, Anne K. Hoffman.*

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