



Service of the Lord's Day
Sunday, May 9, 2021

God's People Gather

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the House of the Lord!"

(Psalm 122:1)

With glad hearts, we welcome you to worship among this community of believers! The decorated tubes in the pews are guides to assist us in caring for one another by maintaining safe distances. You may move the tubes in either direction in the pew to accommodate your "household." We invite you to hum the hymns or meditate on the words as the Sanctuary Singers sing on our behalf.

Greetings and Announcements

Minute for Stewardship

David Allebach

Prayer of Preparation

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and truly worship you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prelude God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens – arr. Moglebust Chancel Handbells

***Call to Worship**

L: We gather to worship as people of Easter,
P: people who know Life is stronger than death.
L: We gather to worship as children of God,
P: children loved and claimed by the risen Lord.
L: We gather to worship as the body of Christ,
P: the church called out for service in the world.
L: Easter people, Christ is risen!
P: Christ is risen indeed!

***Hymn** Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (verses 1 and 3)

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing, an ever-present help and stay,

our peace and joy and blessing, as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

Prayer of Confession

O God, whose love knows no bounds, forgive us when we fail to reflect your loving kindness. When we turn away from the goodness of your love, call us back with the tender voice of a caring friend. When we stumble over the gift of your grace, lift us up with the strong arms of a loving parent. When we are certain that we are alone in the chaos of this world, show us your love with the hands and feet of Christ, your love incarnate. Forgive us, risen Christ, of all the ways we fall short. (silent confession) Heal us and teach us to be agents of resurrection in the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, believe the good news:

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

L: The Risen One says, "Blessed are you; rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!"

*Response

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

God's Word is Heard

Time With Children

Anthem **This Little Light of Mine** – arr. Tucker

Chancel Treble Handbells
Cindy Foust, piano

Scripture Readings

Psalm 98 (read responsively)

L: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

P: The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

L: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

L: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

P: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

P: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

L: at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

John 15:9-17

Sermon **The Dreaded "J" Word**

Rev. W. Carter Lester, Jr.

God's People Respond

*Affirmation of Faith

In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of

cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new. The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected. (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

***Giving Our Gifts**

Prayer of Dedication

Doxology

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you, we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours, we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you, we are an offering.

Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you;

And also with you...

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

God's Sends Us Out

***Hymn Joy to the World (verses 1, 2, and 4)**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

***Blessing**

***Postlude "Allegro" -- Boyce**

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Please leave the sanctuary by the side aisles and both doors; the deacons will guide you.

The Worship Committee would like to offer a blessing for mothers: "O God, whose watchful eye is always upon us, and whose loving arms are ever open to us, we bless you for mothers who birth and nourish us into life in this world, and mothers who birth and nourish us into life in Christ. We remember them all, and give thanks!"

Our sanctuary singers and musicians this morning are Bruce Achuff, John Genter, Rob Land, and Rob Wade. Chancel Handbells: Natalia Bradley, Katie DeNicco, Marguerite Detwiler, Tim Detwiler, Gayle Hall, Andy Hazeltine, Laura Hazeltine, Julie Kovach, Sue Moyer, Sarah Pinard, Brent Stark, Susan Stark, and Rob Wade. Chancel Treble Handbells: Katie DeNicco, Marguerite Detwiler, Laura Hazeltine, Julie Kovach, and Sarah Pinard. Thank you!

The sanctuary flowers are given by Jim and Jo Ann Bathurst and dedicated in memory of Florence Schumacher and all of the strong women in this congregation.

Calendar of Events for this week:

Today	9:30 a.m.	Worship
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Yoga
	9:00 a.m.	Church Library open during Office hours
	10:00 a.m.	Staff meetings (Community Room)
	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
	7:30 p.m.	Bible Study via Zoom (contact Carter for link)
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Yoga
	4:00 p.m.	Musicless Rec
	7:30 p.m.	Deacons
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Church Library open during Office hours
	9:30 a.m.	Sisters of the Way Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
	5:00 p.m.	Community Meals (lower parking lot)
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
	6:15 p.m.	Treble Handbells Rehearsal
	6:45 p.m.	Chancel Handbells Rehearsal
	7:30 p.m.	Dementia Companions (C&K's porch)
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Yoga
	10:00 a.m.	"The Gift of Years" Book Discussion (Community Room)
	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby (6-9pm)
Saturday	7:00 a.m.	Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby (7am-4pm)
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:45 a.m.	"Fairness in Educational Funding" Group Meeting (Comm Rm)



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Rev. W. Carter Lester, Jr. & Rev. Karen Pidcock-Lester, Co-Pastors
Jaylee Ferreri, Director for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
Debra Voytko, Organist, Cynthia K. Foust, Director of Music
Dawn Skelly, Parish Nurse

Jo Ann Bathurst, Children's Choir Director

Marie Kayati, Administrative Assistant -- Thomas Spitko, Sexton

Becky Bostwick, HENS Director, (610) 326-3690

Check out the church's website www.fpcpottstown.org

Sermons are available.

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