



## Service of the Lord's Day Sunday, May 16, 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

#### Prayer of Preparation

L: Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church gathered in this place.

**P: Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened.**

L: Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.

**P: Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful find comfort.**

L: Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed.

**P: Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired;**

**All: through the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Prelude "Balm in Gilead" -- arr. Mears

Brittnai Pantou, soloist  
Deb Voytko, piano

#### \*Call to Worship

L: Our hearts are ready, O God, our hearts are ready!

**P: We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!**

L: We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,  
we will sing praises to you among the nations.

**P: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. (based on Psalm 108:1-4)**

#### \*Hymn Blessing and Honor and Glory and Power (verses 1 and 3)

Blessing and honor and glory and power, wisdom and riches and strength evermore,  
be to the Lamb who our battle has won, whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne.

Ever ascending the song and the joy, ever descending the love from on high; blessing and honor  
and glory and praise: this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.

## Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him; we have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to honor him with our lives. (*silent confession*) God of grace, God of glory, forgive us. Raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands and following the way of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, 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 "Ave Maria" -- Schubert

Brittnai Panton, soloist  
Deb Voytko, piano

Scripture Readings Luke 24:44-53  
Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

## Sermon

Rev. Karen Pidcock-Lester

## God's People Respond

## \*Affirmation of Faith

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ...For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:15-20)

## \*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 **My Life Flows On** (verses 1 and 2)

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation. I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

*Refrain:*

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? (*Refrain*)

### \*Blessing

### \*Postlude "Hornpipe" -- Handel

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

*Our sanctuary singers and musicians this morning are Bruce Achuff, John Genter, Gaye Hall, Brittani Panton (soloist), and Sarah Pinard. Thank you!*

*The sanctuary flowers are given by Jane Barndt and dedicated to families as we all slowly begin to gather.*

*Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday – feel free to wear red!*

### Calendar of Events for this week:

Today	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:45 a.m.	"Fairness in Educational Funding" Group Meeting (Comm Rm)
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)
	7:30 p.m.	Lectio Divina via Zoom (contact Kerry for link/website calendar)
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Yoga
	4:00 p.m.	Musicless Rec
	7:30 p.m.	Session (Fellowship Hall)
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.	Mark 12:31 Team via Zoom
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Yoga
	10:00 a.m.	"The Gift of Years" Book Discussion (Community Room)
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Relay for Life Flea Market (Church parking lot - 8am-1pm)
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship – <b>Pentecost Sunday</b> (Welcome New Members)
	10:45 a.m.	Lemonade in the Shade (after worship)



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH *Pottstown*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

**750 N. Evans St., Pottstown, PA 19464**

**Phone 610-326-0620—FAX 610-326-4805**

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](http://www.fpcpottstown.org)

Sermons are available.

"Like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Twitter.