

West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church
Belleville, Pennsylvania



May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Congregation reads text in BOLD

*If you are comfortable doing so, please stand.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be taking communion today in a way familiar to many Presbyterian churches. The words of institution are combined with the distribution of the elements. It is all very clear in the bulletin and I think will feel familiar to you.

CENTERING THOUGHT:

In his most striking commentary on the Ascension Calvin says: “Since (Christ) entered heaven in our flesh, as if in our name, it follows, as the apostle says, that *in a sense we already sit with God in the heavenly places in him* (Christ). At the Ascension, our humanity, our “flesh,” has been “taken” (Acts 1:11) by God’s Beloved One into the very heart of God. This is profound good news for us as Christians and for our whole world. It means that we are more deeply valued, loved and held by God than we may have ever known before.

SILENT PRAYER:

Risen and ascended Christ, you surround us with witnesses and send us the Counselor who opens our minds to understand your teaching. Help us to walk in the good news that You walked with us and take us with You wherever You go. Bless us with such grace that our lives may become a blessing for the world now, and in the age to come. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come to join with all the earth in praise:

**to sing a new song to the Lord,
who has done marvelous things,
who has shown us steadfast love and faithfulness.**

We praise the Lord with joyful noises joining the symphony of the earth:

**the roar of the ocean,
the call of the birds,
the wind across the hills,
people in every corner of the globe.**

On this sabbath day of rest and gladness,
we greet you with joy, our living God!

*HYMN: PH #442 *The Church's One Foundation* (verses 1,4,5)

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

A loving God knows: "We grow and change. We move from one place to another. We endure disease and violence. We make mistakes and we commit sins, knowingly and unknowingly." Therefore, let's confess our sins, trusting that God will help us transform our lives.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Tender God, forgive us for our half-hearted faith that loves only when it is easy, and reaches out only to those who are like us, that ignores your less convenient commandments and fails to bear fruit anyone would rejoice in. How can a faith like that conquer the world? Nourish us again, to blossom with whole-hearted faith that abides in your love and shines forth with joy. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Friends, we carry with us a vision of our humanity being taken up by Christ into God, caught up within an ultimate, redemptive purpose for our lives. There is nothing that can separate us from God's tender forgiveness and love. Amen.

*PEACE OF CHRIST:

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to those here and beyond the walls of our Sanctuary. The Peace of Christ be with You!!

And, also with You.

*GLORIA PATRI:

***Glory to be the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.***

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Holy Spirit, help us to hear familiar words with fresh ears, and to take your Holy Word to us seriously, as guide and pattern for our lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:1-11
Luke 24:44-53

CHILDREN'S SERMON

MESSAGE: *Already and Not Yet* Rev. Ela J. Robertson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN: PH #423 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* (verses 1,3,5)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
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. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: Prayer Song: *Altar Song*

*All I am, Oh all I am, all I am I bring to you, I bring to you.
All my joy, Oh All my joy, All my joy, I bring to you, I bring to you*

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you.
And, also with you.

Lift up your heart.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise. O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe, you call us even now to acts of courage and witness and peace. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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.

Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

(The bread is distributed.)

The Bread of Life!

(We take the bread together.)

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

(The cup is distributed.)

The Cup of the Covenant

(We take the cup together.)

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

God of abundance, in Christ's Ascension and with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN: StF #2108 *Oh How He Loves You and Me*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG PH# 587 *Amen* (1x piano 2x congregation)

*POSTLUDE

O How He Loves You and Me 2108

1. O how he loves you and me! _____ O how he
 2. Je - sus to Cal - v'ry did go; _____ his love for

loves you and me! _____ He gave his life. What
 sin - ners to show. _____ What he did there brought

more could he give? O how he loves you; O how he
 hope from de - spair. O how he loves you; O how he

loves me; O how he loves you and me! _____
 loves me; O how he loves you and me! _____

WORDS: Kurt Kaiser (1 John 3:1)

MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser

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PATRICIA
 Irregular

Worship Team

Pastor: Rev. Ela J. Robertson

Lay Reader: Matt Waddell

Greeters: Ann Thompson and helpers

Offering helpers may be from the following: Penelope Carothers, Adrian, Tammy Carothers and others.

Credits: Liturgy by Carol Prickett (*Presbyterian Outlook*, May 5, 2024). Centering Thought by John S. McClure, “The Ascension — a promise of great things to come.” (*Presbyterians Today*)

Cover Art: William Hunter, *The Ascension*, from *The Hunterian Psalter* (c. 1170), pen and ink and tempera on vellum, University of Glasgow Library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING:

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|---------|---|
| May 19 | Pentecost |
| June 18 | Huntingdon Presbytery Meeting , Lewistown Presbyterian Church, 9:30 am |
| July 21 | Service and Picnic at Greenwood Furnace |

Call if you need a ride; we will arrange drop off at the accessible parking area near the site and assistance to the site.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pastor Robertson will be at a conference and away May 8 - 14. On Sunday May 12 Matt Waddell will lead worship, his first service since being certified by the Presbytery as a Lay Pastor! For pastoral emergencies you may call Pastor Sarah Sedgewick (814 771-1891).

You may call the pastor (740 338-7123) or leave a message on the office phone (717 935-2337) to set up a time to visit or talk.

◆Lay Reader Schedule◆

Sunday of Each Month:

First- Matt Waddell... Second- Bill Corbin... Third- Ann McNabb...
Fourth- Matt Waddell or other... Fifth- Brent Stoner

JOYS and CONCERNS

Calvin Byler, Sally's son Scott, Elliana Byler, Anne Marie Yoder, Pam Ritchey, Levi Fultz, Cathy Drury, Hannah Faulkner, Jim Marthouse, Pat Byler, Kyung Sun Yim (Susie's mother), Jon Helfrick, Cindy Coder, Shawna Horn.

Please pray for Ron Bailey, who is recovering from heart surgery at The Oaks, Westminster Village.

Please pray for those who have lost loved ones, especially friends and family on the recent passing of Bertha Penepacker, and friends and family of Robert Young and Laura Baggus.

Please pray for all those who are undergoing diagnosis, operations, and treatments.

Pray for those suffering mental challenges, loss of sense of self and self worth, depression, suicidal ideations and self harm, social isolation, debilitating anxiety and anger. Help us know how to help them.

Pray for learning and new life and God's guidance in children and young people.

Pray for our neighbors near and far. Pray that the tomb of death, war and violence be broken open by the peace Christ brings.

Pray for the safety and health of our Big Valley community.

Valley View Haven, Valley View Terrace

Alice Long, Larry & Jean Ecklund, Edie Meachum, Al Schutz, Barb Young

Westminster Woods: Bill Rumbaugh – 360 Westminster Drive, Huntingdon, PA. Ron Bailey - 109 Sycamore Way, Huntingdon, PA 16652

In the Military and Service: Rob Westover, Eric Kauffman, Shawn Seager, Michael Yutesle, and all those not listed children, relatives and members of our congregation.

Huntingdon Presbytery prayers for the upcoming week: Krislund Camp and Retreat Center, Joel Blunk, Bob Hicks, Al Wilson, Lee McCardle, Jeanette Mater, Robert Zorn