

**WESLEY**  
**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*Weems, Virginia*

**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”**

Matthew 28:19 NIV

**April 28, 2024**

*The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: We come to worship with joy, trusting God’s holy word will inspire us.

**Congregation: We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit’s blessing.**

Pastor: May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

**Congregation: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.**

**Opening Prayer**

Holy One, we thank you for your gift of guidance. Jesus taught us the blessed lesson that to dwell with you is not an obligation. It is a joy. We abide in you by striving to live in love. May we be the bounty of the fruit of the vine to feed your people with righteousness and justice. May we bring to the world the grace afforded unto us. In your son’s holy name, Amen.

**Hymn #508 Love Lifted Me**

**Prayer of Confession**

O Christ, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches. In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you and bound to one another by your spirit. Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine, and teach us to abide in you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Gloria Patri**

**Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer and the 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 and ever. Amen.

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world— giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen. Psalm 22:25–31

## **Doxology**

## **Hymn #410 Standing on the Promises**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Children's Church**

## **Scripture Readings:**

Psalm 150  
1 John 4:7-11  
Acts 8:26-40  
John 15:1-8

## **Sermon: CONNECTED**

## **Hymn #786 Count Your Blessings**

## **Benediction**

## **Dismissal Song: May the Lord, Mighty God . . .**

~ Holy Communion Next Week ~

Prayers: <https://calltoworshipjournal.org/april-28-2024-fifth-sunday-of-easter/>

## **Announcements**

### **Our April fellowship gathering is today, after the service. All are welcome!**

Need suggestions for recipes for our Fellowship Sundays or other occasions? We are trying to gauge interest in developing a **Wesley Presbyterian Historic Church Cookbook**. They could be used as gifts for family and friends, and could be sold at our yard sale and Christmas Bazaar. Minimum order is 100 books with 150 recipes. Please let Cheri know if you would be interested and willing to help support this Wesley history/ fundraising project.

**The Weekly Bible Study** featuring the book “Jesus the God Who Knows Your Name” by Max Lucado concludes this Tuesday evening, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for the next series . . .

As you're doing your spring cleaning, please set aside items that might be donated for our yard sale and Christmas Bazaar this year.