



First Presbyterian Church of New Philadelphia

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Rev. Joseph Svancara, Pastor

**Sunday Worship Service
July 6, 2025**

*All who are able, please stand.

Announcements & Prayer Concerns

After service today is our monthly church brunch- all are welcome to come and enjoy!

Bible Study will be this Wednesday (July 9) at 10am.

AA will meet this Wednesday (July 9) at 8pm.

Our Sunday Morning Study Group will meet on Sunday (June 29) at 9:15am. We will begin a new discussion on "Practice of the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence.

See Rev. Joe if you wish to join!

Next Sunday (July 13) is our monthly Friends of the Homeless Dinner at 6pm. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is available in the church office. While funds for the meal are good, please consider donating toward one of our other Friends of the Homeless efforts (FOTH Operations/Jack's House of Hope.)

During July we will be taking up a special collection for Dress-A-Child, a local effort to provide back-to-school supplies and clothes for children in our area. This will be matched by our mission budget. Donation envelopes are available on the back mission table.

Opening Prayer

LORD, our Father, you have called your disciples to service in order that the whole of the world might understand your glory and desire to create. You call us to walk into difficult situations and circumstances, not for our glory but to joyously proclaim yours. Help us find the enjoyment in your service and what we stand to gain when we let go of our own expectations. **Amen.**

Prelude Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow arr. Martin

***Call to Worship (Psalm 66)**

Be joyful in God, all you lands; be joyful, all the earth. Sing the glory of God's name;
sing the glory of God's praise.

Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down before you, sings to you, sings out your name.”

Come now and see the works of God, how awesome are God’s deeds toward all people.

God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot, and there we rejoiced in God.

Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch over the nations; let no rebels exalt themselves. Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip. For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs. You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble. I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me. I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the LORD with my tongue.

If I had cherished evil in my heart, the LORD would not have heard me; but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Hymn #430 *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us
Through the ages long!
In bold accord,
Come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone,
And still God reigns supreme,

Empowering us to catch the vision,
Dream the dream!
In bold accord,
Come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend,
Let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission
Magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord,
Come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed
Over the ages long!
In bold accord,
Come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord!

***Prayer of Confession**

The LORD speaks to give comfort and assurance to people who struggle or grieve. But
are the words we speak the same?

**LORD, our Father, by your Spirit you have given us the power and ability to
serve in your name. But often we take your powers as our own, and make them
proofs of our own glory before yours. Help us rejoice not in what we can do, but
what we have come to understand because of you. So the world will not see us
but see you working through us. Amen.**

***Silent Confessions and Prayers**

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Through the LORD's presence and steadfast devotion to us we joyfully offer him all the
devotion and worship we can offer!

**Through Jesus Christ we can speak all that the LORD has done, and witness
what his promises will lead to next.**

Hymn #579 *Gloria Patri

Glory be to 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 Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by 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.**

Reading of the Scriptures

All Scripture lessons come from the Revised Common Lectionary. Prescribed lessons are underlined, with pastoral inserts to preserve the integrity of the passage.

Hear the Word of the Lord:

Isaiah 66:5-13

66 ⁵ Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at his word: Your own people who hate you and reject you for my name's sake have said, "Let the Lord be glorified, so that we may see your joy"; but it is they who shall be put to shame. ⁶ Listen, an uproar from the city! A voice from the temple! The voice of the Lord, dealing retribution to his enemies! ⁷ Before she was in labor she gave birth; before her pain came upon her she delivered a son. ⁸ Who has heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be delivered in one moment? Yet as soon as Zion was in labor she delivered her children. ⁹ Shall I open the womb and not deliver? says the Lord; shall I, the one who delivers, shut the womb? says your God. ¹⁰ Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her— ¹¹ that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. ¹² For thus says the Lord: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. ¹³ As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Galatians 6:1-18

6 ¹ My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive

themselves. ⁴ All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵ For all must carry their own loads. ⁶ Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. ⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. ¹¹ See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶ As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷ From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. ¹⁸ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Luke 10:1-24

10 ¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹² I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town. ¹³ Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But at the judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. ¹⁶ Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me." ¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" ¹⁸ He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹ See, I have given you

authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” ²¹ At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” ²³ Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon *The Fifth Sunday of Pentecost*

While I hesitate to bring together the worship of the LORD and national holidays, this year's Independence Day gives a chance to understand more deeply our Christian responsibilities. The United States of America is a nation which has done good for the world, and it has also engaged in activities which are seen as detrimental in the hindsight of history. America is a nation like another other in our world, a governing entity put in place by the LORD to help order creation and the divine plan for all. But it is that governing aspect which seems to have polarized so many, setting citizens and families against one another over what is considered 'right' and 'best'. So many are so obsessed with being right and triumphing over the opposition. Going so far as to set some on high pedestals just for the sick pleasure of knocking them off. So much has become about ideology, ideas, rather than focusing on the people who are impacted by those ideas.

In Galatians 6:1-18, St. Paul finishes his letter detailing that those who ascribe religious practice and dogma over anything else are not doing so out of love. The ones who are forcing new believers to adhere to circumcision are ignoring the burden and confusion being made over Christ's gospel, and his place in their lives. St. Paul was clear that the marks he earned on his body because of persecution are the clearest sign of his commitment to the Church in Galatia. In that same Spirit the saints of the church are to work at caring and being committed to others. To seek peace and harmony, look for ways to build up the weak, humble the proud, and ensure that all actions are centered around the work and example of Christ. Because Christ was present first before any apostle or so-called teachers arrived and would be the one to keep the saints on track.

That is what the prophet writes in Isaiah 66:5-13, as that testament of promise ends speaking with those who are in exile. Away from Israel, and in Babylon, the LORD's people needed an understanding of how to serve the LORD in an effective way in that new place. By Israel's example, by their history, and their willingness they will become a source of inspiration and provision to a people who are watching them. A signal that

something has happened and meant to grab their attention. To show who truly makes the nations and charges its peoples with purpose, identity, and understanding. That is an attitude which would allow them to be of service, to appeal to those who look at them, and engage with the issues those on the outside might be facing. Not to become hermits or recluses just to keep what they have, but to realize what others need to see for their lives to mean anything.

That is why Jesus, in Luke 10:1-24, sends out his followers in a very specific way. The number '70' is symbolic because in the Hebrew mindset there were 70 different people groups which made up the known world. Jesus sends out his disciples to appeal not just to one part of creation, but to the whole. Disciples were to go out not in expectation they would be rewarded or privileged in such a position, but that they can represent to those who might never heard of the LORD's promises before. Those who might have the faintest idea about the LORD, but no clue how to live under or return to him. Disciples were not to be for-profit teachers trying to milk their living through flashy and popular means. But those who purposefully hunker down and live with others so they might understand the truth and reality about the one they live for. That the point is not the use the powers of the Spirit just to serve and make better ourselves, but to give assurance the creator has heard the cries of world and sent his own to assure them.

If America truly claims to be a Christian nation, then the way to prove it is not by flashy teachings or shock-and-awe. It is by identifying the issues that plague people's lives, engaging with others as they are, to find solutions which benefit the many and not the few. It does not involve rolling up the draw bridge and condemning others to their fate, but trying to see how they can add meaningfully to the society and allow others to see more clearly than when they were not here. And if the Church truly claims to represent the LORD in all his fullness, then we cannot become too bogged down in 'proper' thinking and opinions. But engagement with how others see the LORD, understand the gospel of Jesus Christ, and what obstacles they have in terms of faith. Because only when we can nurture and strengthen faith with no strings attached is when the Great Commission can take its ultimate form. A movement where the Spirit guides all and does not depend on any enforcement by any power, when the temptation to classify others by arbitrary labels breaks, and we can see how to teach others a way of living that truly is about them and not what we can earn from them.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Let us remember in prayer:

Dominic Aquino, Tom & Amy Aquino, Mary Ellen Beans, Terry Carpenter, Fritz Chambers, Michelle Chamberlain, Mary Jane Dougherty, Don Eberheart Jr., Allison Folly, Kay France, Jamie Frank, Bill & Cheryl Graham, Judy Hass, Alice & Errol Jacobs, Barry Jacobs, Victoria Kasten, Amber Loftis, David Mackey, Breanne Mathias, Doug McIntire, Will Long, Tom Netting, Ruth Patrick, Bob Pierre, Carol Phillips, Mark Preusser, Stefani Seth, Josh Shaeffer, Marlene Singhaus, Cindy Smith, Derrick &

Mandy Smith, Janis Stover, Dean & Heidi Unzicker, Simone Villarruel, The Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County & The Homeless of Tuscarawas County.

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!

LORD, our Father, great and glorious are your works and great plan for all creation. You reach into our lives, the lives of all creatures who inhabit this world, and have blessed each with your divine essence. Your breath of life allows us to more, live, and enjoy the reality which comes from your holy imagination. You give ability for each to work and strive toward the care of your world and understand their place under you. We admit at one point or another we have attempted to usurp control and hijack your plan for our benefit, and in the process caused unnecessary hurt and disruption to others. We see this continue to happen daily across this world, and see what sin can do. But your gospel allows us to see beyond ourselves, see past the illusions sin causes us to see, and glimpse your face. For this revelation, this illumination, all of creation sings your praise:

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 are the works of the one whom you teach your great revelation through and who brings us back from darkness. Through seemingly ordinary objects, broken bread and poured cup, Jesus teaches the closeness of your presence, what it provides, and how it allows us to live. We thank you for these noble truths, these rejuvenating teachings, which allow us to articulate the mystery of your faith:

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

By Christ, with Christ, and for Christ we come to this table as a single fellowship. As members of the human race that we might glimpse what we can become and what you set us up to do. Through these revelations of love and grace may we see the plans you have for us, and how you wish us to serve as your disciples only.

Amen.

Partaking in the Elements

We thank you, LORD, that you have blessed us with your power and service. You have transformed our beings and let us know what we can do through your example. For all the joys and concerns in our lives, for our community and nation, direct us to serve in a manner which brings all together and never separate. So the words of your prayer come to life and are realized to our amazement:

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. Amen.

Offering our Gifts

Let us rejoice that the gospel of Jesus Christ gives us ability to work, serve, and give so others might witness the Holy Spirit in action!

Offertory *He Keeps Me Singing* arr. Martin

Hymn #592 *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**

LORD, our Father, you give the ability of your fellowship to go out and reach those around all creation with your message of hope and assurance. Let all we give serve that purpose and enable others to find you and become like you have promised.
Amen.

Hymn #429 *Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
And the gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to you purpose
With renewed integrity;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
Life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us
Closer in community;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
Daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us
Share your children's liberty;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure;
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
All that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
To a just society;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
May we serve as you intend,
And, amid the cares that claim us,
Hold in mind eternity;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

***Benediction**

Hear now, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You will love the Lord your
God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind; you will love your neighbor as
yourself.

With the gospel of Jesus Christ guiding you, go into the world to live this sole purpose.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Postlude *Recessional in C* arr. Wagner**

Be blessed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ wherever you may go!

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