



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WEST PENN

"...where worship and service don't stop with the final hymn."

**Rev. Cliffert Herring, Interim Pastor
Carol Steigerwalt, Director of Music**

May 12, 2024 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter

MOTHER'S DAY

Worship Service ~ 9:00 AM Sunday School ~ 10:15 AM

(Please turn off your cell phone.)

We Gather to Seek God's Presence

Prayer of Preparation

Jesus, our Savior, you were taken into the heavens and yet, through your Holy Spirit, your presence continues to be with us. Receive our lives and our prayers for the world that everything and everyone might be brought into your glory. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

Prelude

Greeting/Announcements/Joys, Concerns & Prayer Updates

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Hymn *"We Have Come Into His House"* #224

(All who are able, please stand.)

Call to Worship

P: Fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers,

All: Families in all shapes and sizes,

P: Come and worship.

All: Quick learners and patient teachers,

P: Come and worship.

All: We who feel younger than springtime or older than the hills,

P: Come and worship.

All: We who go faster than the speed of light or slower than molasses,

P: Come and worship.

All: On this special, holy day,

P: Come and worship.

Opening Hymn

“Happy Our Home When God is There”

#453

P: Let us pray together

ALL: Gracious God, on this day when we celebrate the love within the home, we remember your love embodied in your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to model our love after his servant love, which bows down to cradle the vulnerable in hands that offer a healing and life-giving touch. We pray this in his name. Amen.

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek God’s Forgiveness

P: From age to age is God's faithfulness. From day to day is our striving. Let us confess to our faithful God our failure and our stress.

Prayer of Confession

ALL: Faithful God, patient Friend, you are as near to us as breath and as constant as the waves on the shore. Yet how often our lives fail to mirror your ways. We are sometimes absent from our children, giving into pressures at work or yielding to the lure of success and money. We are at times distant from one another, for though we are in the same place, our hearts and minds wander and stray. We choose not to listen, to only half-hear the words of another.

Faithful God, patient Friend, restore our sense of belonging to each other. Heal our relationships and encourage us to be strong mothers, caring fathers, and wise friends. Teach us the way of love and the path of Jesus. Amen.

{A Time for silent Reflection}

Assurance of Pardon

P: As a mother forgives her erring children, so God reaches out to us, in compassion and love to wrap those Divine arms around us, recalling us to God’s fold. Through the Grace of Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Song of Praise *(sung)*

*Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way;
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift your name on high.*

The Passing of the Peace

P. The peace of Christ be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

P. Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

(The congregation may be seated.)

Children's Time

We Listen for God's Word to Us

The Reading of Scripture

The First Reading

Acts 1: 1-11

The Psalm Reading

Psalm 93

The Gospel Reading

Luke 24: 44-53

(After the Gospel is announced, all who are able stand and sing:)



Affirmation of Faith

P: Together let us affirm our common faith:

C: We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating; who has come to us in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence; to live with respect in creation; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim Jesus' message of hope, inclusion and grace. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory *"Mother's Prayers Have Followed Me"*

by Lizzie De Armand & B. D. Ackley

(All who are able, please stand.)

The Offertory Response *"The Doxology"* *(Hymnal, #815)*

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

Prayer of Dedication *(in unison)*

Receive these our gifts, Loving God. We pray that they may help to strengthen our church and its families; inspire others to know your grace; and promote peace and justice throughout our nation and our world. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated.)

A Mother's Day Litany

P: Divine Creator, who has loved us like a mother and father, by your wisdom we have been born into families, desiring all families to be filled with love. We thank you for all of the blessings that we have received from our home and family life.

ALL: RECEIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE, O GOD.

P: Loving God with a mother's heart, you gather us as your children. You comfort and hold us in your warm embrace. When we hurt, your arms enfold us. When we are afraid, your wings protect us. When we are hungry, you feed us with the bread of life.

ALL: WE PRAISE YOU, LOVING GOD.

P: We praise you for our mother's which love surrounds and supports us, in good times and in tough, in the midst of joy and pain, always and everywhere. Like you, O God, they will never leave nor abandon us.

ALL: WE PRAISE YOU, LOVING GOD

P: Grant, Heavenly Mother, that the goodness of our mother's faith and love may ever be the guardian angel of our souls, and that through our lives, we might live up to their noblest dreams and unselfish hopes.

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER , O GOD.

P: We pray that you will bless all mothers, fathers, and all who have been entrusted with the care and upbringing of our children. Grant them love, patience, wisdom, and integrity as they teach our children to embody their faith in you and in Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son.

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER, O GOD.

P: Lord God, be ever present in our homes, the unseen guest at every table, the silent listener to every conversation. Grant that the Spirit of Your Son, Jesus may abide with us and ennoble all our relationships and sanctify all our tasks.

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER, LOVING GOD

P: Let us pray together:

ALL; GRACIOUS GOD, IN YOUR ETERNAL AND DIVINE WISDOM YOU MADE US FOR RELATIONSHIPS. WE CELEBRATE THOSE YOU HAVE BROUGHT INTO OUR LIVES, ESPECIALLY OUR MOTHERS. FOR ALL THOSE WHO TEACH US TO LOVE, WE PRAISE YOU. FOR THOSE WHO INSPIRE US TO BE GENEROUS, JUST AND KIND, WE THANK YOU. FOR THOSE WHO NURTURE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU, WE REJOICE. AND FOR THOSE WHO DISAPPOINT US, WE ASK FOR GRACE TO BE COMPASSIONATE AND FORGIVING. IN ALL OUR RELATIONSHIPS MAY WE LIVE THE TRUTH OF YOUR LOVE FOR US, WHICH KNOWS NO BOUNDS, WE PRAY THIS IN THE NAME OF JESUS WHO TAUGHT US TO PRAY:

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

*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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

Prayer for Call Committee *(in unison)*

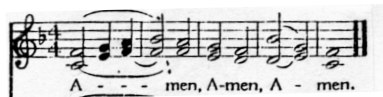
Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look upon this congregation with grace. Guide the minds of our Search Committee members, Pauline, Jill, Samantha, Susan, Travis, Frank and Mike as they discern which of your servants will be our next pastor. Please grant that we might receive a faithful shepherd who will care for us and continue to equip us for ministry in this place. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(All who are able, please stand.)

Closing Hymn *“Now Thank We All Our God”*

#788

The Benediction with Three-fold “Amen”



Extinguishing of Candles/Silent Meditation

Choral Blessing *(sung)*

“Go Now in Peace”

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

Postlude

“I Worship You, Almighty God”

by Sondra Corbett



THE ALTAR FLOWERS are dedicated to the Glory of God in honor and in memory of all Mothers, Grandmothers, stepmothers, foster mothers and mother figures.

LECTOR: TBD.

PSALM READER: TJ Hartman.

ACOLYTES: Madison Schaeffer and Jayden Rex.

SOUND SYSTEM: Eric Schock.

LAST WEEK'S BIRTHDAY OFFERING received from Carolyn Kunkel and Leon Kunkel.

MAY VISITATION LIST BIRTHDAYS: Robert Coombe (5/1) and Velma Schaeffer (5/17).



Today's Joyous Noise offering will be for The Multiple Sclerosis Society. People with MS need us now more than ever. Please continue to contribute, however you can. Donations may be made at anytime payable to The Multiple Sclerosis Society. We will gladly forward these in memory of Matt Brickler.

A Mother's Day Prayer

*Thank you, Lord, that you fill a mother's heart with love,
That you have instilled in her very being the need to protect her children if
at all possible,
Thank you for giving her the gift of nurturing her children, of teaching
them, of comforting them, for feeding them and making a safe place
for them.*

*For guiding them to be all that God has created them to be.
Fill every mother with love, wisdom and endurance,
with strength and patience and joy.
Give them ability to forgive again and again.
Enable her to rely on You and call upon You, because You
will give her all she needs.*



Facebook ~ Archdiocese of Manila

We wish a happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers and to those who are in the role of a loving mother. May God bless you as you continue to raise our youth.

Say a Prayer for:

*Richard Knadler
Olga Faust
Sonia Finnegan
Donald Moyer
Holly Fox
Charlotte Miller
Bruce Miller
Gary Steigerwalt
Sharon Horning
Charlotte Solt
Paulette Rex
Ruth Miller
Mike Canty
Jeff Fogel
Marge Hallman
Pat Conner
Hazel Arner
Anne Scott
Bonnie Miller
Kenneth Breiner
Ralph Fisher
Paul David
Dan Myers
Rita Yarmell
Dr. Harry Berger
Rose Marek
Tim Phillips
Diane Serfass
Cassie Wolfe
Evor "Butch" Williams
Erlin Moyer
Teresa Fowler
Gregory Slivka*

*Mary Lou McGowan
Rev. James Seifert
Rev. Russell & Corrine
Heintzelman
Kathy Hoppel
Mark Wolfe
Shawn Phillips
Leonard Miller
Connie Heckman
Gail Thon
Patrick Pulanco
Bob Goerner
Rev. Russ Campbell
Chester Jones
Dan McMullen
Loretta Beers
David Schoch
Erin Coombe
Karen Lenhart
Billy James
Laurie Black
Darryl Moyer
Betty Breiner
Sherry Seip
Maggie Wehr
Nancy Domanski
Melinda Frey
Linda Agosti
Logan Pribila
Bruce Wolf
Lori Fairchild
Franklin Mackes
Mark Abrachinsky
Greg Blackall*

*Lana Kuehner
Zayden Mabey
John Kowlewski
Aiden Kreimendahl
Mike & Bernice Delp
Gino Lorady
Kim & Dave Carson
Louise Billman
Tony Masor
Sherry Walz
Darlene Kunkel
Erla Biasi
Carolyn Kunkle
Jillian Datchko
Russel Stull, Jr.
Donna Roderick
Jaden Leiby
Justin Klotz
Gene McCormik
William Shirar
Amy Meixsall
Jackson Delebar
Austin Klein
Melissa Drake
Lorna Hart
Carson Barron
Caroline Lantz
Nancy Barkus*



**If you know of someone to be added or removed from the Prayer List, please contact
Rev. Herring, Chris Miller or the church office.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Today, Sunday, May 12:

9:00 AM Worship Service
Mother's Day
Joyous Noise Offering
10:15 AM Sunday School

Tuesday, May 14:

JUNE Newsletter Deadline
6:00 PM Prayer Group

Thursday, May 16:

6:00 PM Cherub Choir
7:00 PM Senior Choir

Friday, May 17:

2:00 PM Preschool Raffle Drawing

Saturday, May 18:

11:00 AM-1:00 PM Zook's Pie order pickup (South Entrance)

Next Sunday, May 19:

9:00 AM Worship Service ~ Confirmation
Sacrament of Holy Communion
10:15 AM Sunday School
6:00 PM Girl Scouts

**For complete details on these events, please consult your newsletter.*



WASP NEWS

The Mother/Daughter/Aunt/Sister/Cousin Tea on Tuesday, May 21st @ 6.30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A signup sheet on the parlor table for refreshments. All church women and young ladies are invited to join them.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

NEXT **Sunday, May 19th** during our morning worship, Troy (TJ) Hartman, Jr., Cadence Krimendahl, Colby Moyer, Jayden Rex, Madison Schaeffer, and Mikayah Steigerwalt will celebrate their rite of confirmation into our church family. Please plan on attending to welcome them.



May 5, 2024

Attendance: 101

Plate Offering: \$ 123.00

Total Current Offering: \$ 2,721.50

Building Maintenance Fund: \$ 302.00

Year-to-date Fuel: \$ 705.00

Year-to-date Elevator: \$ 50.00

Benevolence:

Total YTD: \$ 3,292.00

2024 combined benevolence goal is \$10,000.00

St. Peter's Church, West Penn

184 St. Peter's Road Tamaqua PA 18252 570-386-4388

**Rev. Cliffert Herring, Interim Pastor ~ 484-553-9175
from 9:00am.-1:00pm.**

Denise Moyer, Board President ~ 484-695-1887

Lori Hoppes, Vice President ~ 610-393-0901

For visitations/emergencies, please contact

Rev. Glenn Rarick at (570) 621-8025.

Contact Denise Moyer, Board President for general concerns at 484-695-1887.

Contact for our TLC Committee for Your Special Needs:

Please call Sue Conner at (570) 778-5367, or text her at jrotc@ptd.net.

Director of Music: Carol Steigerwalt

Sexton: Lou Ann Algard

Financial Secretary: Jacqueline McCandless

Church Office: Elaine Koons

Church Office Phone: (570) 386-4388

Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10:00 AM ~ 2:00 PM

Wednesday 10:00 AM ~ 1:00 PM

E-mail addresses: Rev. Herring ~ reched@rcn.com

Church Office: info@stpwp.com

Financial Secretary: financials@stpwp.com

Sunday School: spwpsundayschool@gmail.com

Web Site Address: <https://www.stpeterschurchwestpenn.com>

Web Master email: info@stpwp.com

Facebook: St Peter's Church of West Penn



Rev. Glenn Rarick will be serving as our visitation/emergency minister. If you would like a visit or are going to the hospital, please let him know at 570-621-8025.