

Manor Minutes

Volume 12 Issue 18

May 7, 2021

Those with last names beginning with **A-E and P-Z** worship in the sanctuary **May 9** at 10:15am. The Worship Schedule can be found at: <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/sanctuary-schedule>.

ZOOM – LIVE

Zoom Worship this Week - Live from the Sanctuary at 10:15am!

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45 am using the meeting ID and password.

Meeting ID: 932 4557 4206 Password: 026316

Fellowship with other "Zoomers" from **9:45 – 10:15am**.

Text your prayer concerns to Rev. Chris (412) 956-6590. He will share these during worship. At 10:15 am, mute yourself on Zoom (Not sure how to do that? Login at 9:45 am and someone will help). Those on Zoom are visible to each other for the entire worship service. If you would like to see but not be seen, click Stop Video on your Zoom screen.

Children Worship & Wonder

We invite children age 3 – Grade 5 to participate in Children Worship & Wonder. Join CW&W on Zoom around 10:30 am (contact Pastor Gena for the login information). To learn more and register your child(ren), <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/children-worship-wonder>

Tween Team

The Tween Team met on May 2 and discussed Paul and Silas' time in Philippi (Acts 16), and how we show hospitality to people inside and out of the church. With our discussion, we started to design a welcome package for kids who visit us in the future.

There will be NO Tween Team Sunday, May 9. The Tween Team will next meet on May 16. If you know a Tween that would enjoy becoming part of the Tween Team, please contact Pastor Gena or JC Leasure.



Elders Meeting – May 12, 6pm via Zoom
Board Meeting – May 12, 7pm via Zoom
Stewardship/Finance Ministry – May 18, 6pm via Zoom
Pastor's Cabinet – May 25, 2pm via Zoom

Stay up to date, check www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar

2021 PENTECOST OFFERING

MAY 16 AND MAY 23

The 2021 Pentecost Offering is a special offering in support of the new church movement in your Region and across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

BE BOLD + BE COURAGEOUS + BE GENEROUS + BE THE NEW CHURCH



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

May 9, 2021

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship*

JC Leasure

Sing a new song, a song of love for all.
Sing of the Spirit of love, the Spirit who loves us all.
Sing of God's abiding love, that we might love one another and all of the world.
Sing a new song, a song of love for all.

Opening Hymn

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

Audra Allen, organist

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Pastor Gena and Connie Sheller

Loving God and Parent of All,

Thank you for gathering us today as children birthed in your image, blessed offspring of your creation. As a mother hen gathers her brood under her wing, so today gather us in, joined together to hear your teachings and experience your love as we worship you.

We thank you for the women among us and around us to whom you have given the privilege and the challenge of being mothers and mother figures. Especially this day, we thank you for all mothers, everywhere. Strengthen them as they raise their children and give them courage as they let their children go.

We thank you for grandmothers, sisters, aunts, teachers, Sunday school teachers, adult mentors, big sisters, and everyone everywhere who plays a motherly role in the life of another. Grant all women the ability to model the example of Christ for all within their influence, that they might share the love that you have so freely shown to all of us.

We pause to remember those for whom Mother's Day is a source of discomfort, perhaps even anxiety and pain. We lift up those for whom this day brings sadness in remembering their own mothers who have died, especially those experiencing this Mother's Day for the first time without their mothers. Bring them peace and comfort, we pray.

We remember and give thanks for the many mothers throughout Scripture, named and unnamed, who faced the same joys, losses, celebrations, and disappointments that we face.

We remember Jochebed, the mother of Moses, who placed him into a raft on the river to save his life. Saving God, we pray for mothers who struggle to raise their children in oppressive circumstances.

We remember Hannah, who loved her child so much she handed him over to another to raise. Loving God, we pray for mothers who have placed their child in another family.

We remember Naomi, who grieved the death of her sons. God, who grieves with us, we pray for mothers who mourn the death of a child.

We remember Lois and Eunice, who taught Timothy faith by example. Faithful God, we pray for those who teach us faith with their lives. May we remember that we also teach about you in the way we live.

We pray with those for whom Mother's Day is a painful reminder of their own singleness, or their own inability to have biological children. Give these women your special care and love, and grant them your assurance that they are not alone; neither are they without ability to make a lasting impact on the world.

We pray for those for whom their experience with and memory of their own mothers has brought enduring pain, remorse, and guilt. Merciful God, grant the power of healing and forgiveness. Remind us of the wrongs we have done to each other, and the power we have, in your name, to bridge even the deepest divides.

We bring now into the light and warmth of your presence all those about whom we are concerned – those whose names we have mentioned aloud and those we share with you now in this quietness...

We give you thanks, O God, for you are loving father and mother to us all. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, we pray as he taught us...

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Adapted from "A Litany for Mother's Day", copyright © Rev Patty Lawrence, posted on "A Pearl Downunder" blog,
<http://apearldownunder.blogspot.ca/2011/05/litany-for-mothers-day.html>

Prayer Response: "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying" Audra Allen, organist
Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

First Scripture Reading* **Luke 24:44-53** Amy Caldwell

Special Music "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" Jim Cope

Children's Message* Pastor Gena

I wonder if we can list the names of some superheroes together. Now can you tell me what some of their superpowers are? What do superheroes do? Now, what do you think normal people would do in the

superhero stories if there were no superheroes? (*Let's hope the people would do something other than sit around waiting for a superhero to save them*).

I'm asking about superheroes because the disciples treated Jesus kind of like a superhero while he was with them. They kept looking to him to figure things out and fix things for them – sometimes we do that too, don't we? Sometimes Jesus did figure things out and fix things for them. But in today's story, we hear that Jesus leaves the disciples – which means they can't keep having Jesus rescue them. At first, it might seem like Jesus is being sort of mean to his disciples by leaving. But the reason he leaves his disciples is so that they won't keep waiting for him to rescue them, so that they won't keep looking to him to fix the situations they are in. Jesus leaves so that the disciples will be able to learn their last lesson that Jesus needs them to know: That with God's help, they can do what Jesus did, now that Jesus isn't there to do those things.

Jesus taught his disciples how to be God's superheroes, just like he was God's superhero. Jesus did this by teaching the disciples how to pray, how to keep their attention on God and how to receive God's Holy Spirit. And guess what? We can learn the same things that the disciples learned from Jesus by reading the stories about Jesus and then practicing the same things we see him teaching his disciples. When we do these things, then we are learning from Jesus how to be God's superheroes.

And this is what God's superheroes do: They love with God's love, they help with God's help, and they teach others what they've learned about God. I think our mothers might just be superheroes sometimes: they love with God's love, they help with God's help, and they teach us what they've learned about God. And today we say a special thank you to all of the women in our lives who love with God's love, help with God's help, and teach us what they've learned about God. We have lots of those women superheroes right here, don't we?

Dear God, thank you for Jesus who shows us how to be your superheroes. Help us to love with your love, to help with your help, and to teach others what we've learned about you. Amen.

Adapted from https://rfour.org/childrensmessag_a_27.html

Second Scripture Reading*

Acts 1:1-11

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon*

“Heads Up and Feet on the Ground”

Rev. Stillwell

In our call to worship today we were invited to:

Sing a new song. Sing of the Spirit of love,
Sing of God's abiding love, Sing a new song.

I love a new song. I am always looking for a new song, and recently I found one. It is not a brand new song, but it is to me and may be to you, and it is relatively new as far as gospel songs go. It is called, “Can't Keep a Good Man Down,” and the name of the group who wrote it is actually called, Newsong. So I guess you can call it a new Newsong song. It goes like this:

“He said goodbye to the angels of heaven and he came to earth as a common man. There were those who believed and followed him, and there were those who wanted him dead. They thought the grave would silence him forever. But they found out instead...You can't keep a good man down. They nailed him to the cross by hands and feet, and they put him in the ground. Three days later everybody found out that you can't, no you can't...keep a good man down. No you can't, no you can't, no you can't keep a good man down.”

There you have it, a new song extolling the resurrection of Jesus Christ but not just the resurrection. Everything had been thrown against him. Everything had worked to silence him. Indeed they held him down. They nailed him down. They murdered him, but they could not keep him down. He rose from that grave and brought life to the very place where there had been death and only death before.

But if you thought it was impressive that death couldn't keep Jesus down, wait until you see what happens next. The scripture which we hear from the Acts of the Apostles today includes the story of the final post-resurrection appearance of the man whom they simply couldn't keep down. It is the final appearance and the point of departure for the risen Christ to the unending and eternal glory of his resurrection. It is the narrative of Christ's ascension into the heaven. And, as such, it is the story of the in-your-face, wild and wonderful, cosmic and glorious event, the icing on the cake, if you will, of the resurrection life and power of Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus addresses his disciples for the last time and he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. If death couldn't keep him down then gravity had no chance.

It is a wonderful scene and an amazing sight, but please don't get stuck here. I know and you know that we live in a modern, scientific world where we understand that God is not sitting on the next cloud over. We don't have the same view of the cosmos that ancient people did, but that is not the point here. The story of Christ's ascension is not a page from an astronomy text book. Rather, it is a description of a resurrection event and of the meaning of the resurrection itself...and it is this. "No you can't, no you can't, no you can't keep a good man down."

That's the proclamation of the Acts of the Apostles as it tells the story of Christ ascending high into the heavens. Nothing could keep him down...not even gravity, not even grave-ity could keep this man down. Up he went...up he went, overcoming death and everything that tries to keep us tied down to the ground, that attempts to grind us into the dirt of loss, sadness, and despair. He ascended. He overcame all the weight, all the heaviness, all of the gravity of this life. "No you can't, no you can't, no you can't keep a good man down."

In reading or hearing the story of Christ's Ascension you will notice that the disciples are a bit nonplussed by it all. Acts records that "¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them." They stand there gazing up with mouths wide open in amazement and awe, but the angels who are on the scene bring God's message to them, and it is this, "Get on with it!" Well, that isn't actually how they put it. Instead they said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

So their words are different than my words, but the point is the same. The point is that the disciples are not to be stuck in the mystery of the event. Rather they are to live it. They are to discover the gift of new life, new hope, and new beginnings in themselves. Indeed, they are to discover the power of the resurrection that will move them in their own lives from the things that hold them down, the things that grind them down, to a new and renewed life, a grand and hopeful life in God.

"God has gone up," and so can we. God has ascended into the place and reality where life will always trump death, and so can we. God has overcome the things that try to keep life tied down and tied up and so can we.

The truth is that there is a lot that does try to hold us down in our lives, in the church, and in the world. There is violence and war in this world, in our own cities, and in the human heart. There are oppressive systems that keep people tied down in grinding poverty and hopelessness. There is sickness, sin, and sadness in our own experience and lives. Certainly we have been held down and held back by the virus and even now it will take time for us to come back.

And when we do come back to church we will find that there is dissension and dissonance even in the church. And these things connive and plot to keep us down, just as they tried to keep Jesus down. "But you can't...but you can't." That is the message of Christ's resurrection and that is the meaning of this remarkable story of Christ's ascension. Try as you will, you simply can't. God will not be held down, kept down, tied down by any of these realities. No, God's life and love are stronger.

But there is one thing more that holds us down, and sometimes it is looking up. Sometimes we don't get on with the work of the church and the work of being Christians because we spend a little too much time looking up at Heaven, wondering when he will come again, wondering why he won't reach down his hand and fix things, wondering when we will be able to see him.

God did a grand and powerful new thing in the resurrection of Jesus, and God sealed it in the ascent of Jesus to God's own center and heart. It is the purpose, work and mission of God which continues in us today. God has given us life, hope, and love. God has given us victory and glory. God has given us a new beginning for our lives, and God wants us to get on with it.

There is an urgency to the event on the mountain top. Jesus notes that urgency with a promise and with a call. The promise is, "You will receive power, because the Holy Spirit has surrounded and enfolded you." The call is, "And you...you are to be witnesses to the very ends of the earth, to all places, in all circumstances at all times."

We are not tied down any more, but that has a consequence for us. We are the bearers of the message and reality of God's love and life. We are called to witness to it and grow it in the world and in our own lives. God has gone up in victory, and so do we, but that means we need to live that way, reflecting that power and that hope. God has made us partners in the mission and victory of life itself.

The ascension of Christ, therefore, was a glimpse of what is to come, what we may yet receive, but only if we keep on the ground and do the work that God calls us to do. Of course it is nice to think of what is to come. It is nice to hold our head up to the skies and think about why it is that we do what we do but if only if we use those pleasant thoughts to help us in our work, not in avoiding our work.

When I used to bail hay on the farm in the summer it was so hot and hard. I would look up at the sky and long to be like the eagles circling overhead who seemed to be free and cool. But I knew that my time of work was only temporary, and soon I would be free and it gave me the energy to keep on going. In fact I would think of how good it would feel when I got home to shower and have a cool drink knowing that I had put in a good days work, and in that way the promise of a future reward made my work easier in the present.

Let us do likewise. It is fine for us to keep our head up to the sky, but only if doing so helps to keep our feet on the ground. We have been promised eternal life in the next world, but first we are called to make use of our life in this world for as long as it last.

Call to Offering*

JC Leasure

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts and on all of us gathered here, that we may abide in your love and that your love may abide in these gifts. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

Doxology**Dedication of Offering Prayer***

Rev. Stillwell

As we lay these gifts on the altar, we ask that you will transform both the gift and giver. Transform our gifts of money, O Lord, into deeds of mercy and expressions of witness. Transform those who give, great God, into living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to you. Amen.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Stillwell

I love new songs, but old songs are great too, and when I read the last verse of our scripture today where the angels say to the disciples "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" I thought of the old gospel song: Keep Your Eyes on the Prize." In particular I thought of the verse that goes:

I got my hand on the gospel plow
 Won't take nothing for my journey now
 Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

This song was used during the civil rights marches to implore the marchers to keep working for their goal of equal rights, and it is a good reminder for Christians of all colors and backgrounds to keep our eyes on the prize for the disciples were told not to wait around for Jesus to return, because they had work to do, and the same is true for us.

Nothing is worse than a Christian who believes that we should not set about doing the hard work of making this world better, more just, and more loving because they believe Jesus will come back and do it for us. Jesus has left us in charge of God's creation, and when he comes back we better have some evidence that we were working on his behalf while he was gone. This table is not meant to be a refuge or a hiding place, but a way station. It is a place for us to be refilled and refueled, so that we can go back out with our hands to the gospel plow to do the work of building God's kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

Communion Hymn*"I Come with Joy"*

Audra Allen, organist

I come with joy, a child of God,
 forgiven, loved and free,
 the life of Jesus to recall,
 in love laid down for me,
 in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
 to find, as all are fed,
 the new community of love
 in Christ's communion bread,
 in Christ's communion bread.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Diane Palfreyman

At this table where each week we break the bread in remembrance of how Christ died, stir us to remember that He was raised and is now alive. Open the eyes of our hearts by your indwelling Holy Spirit so that we can know the risen Christ and make him known.

We also remember how Jesus shed His blood for us and for our redemption. Loving God, remind us that we do not serve a dead Savior but a living Lord. You raised Jesus from the dead and He is alive forevermore. Today as we drink from this cup of remembrance, teach us that you are there and will be

faithful. Refresh the seal of your Spirit on us and continue to move us along our journey of faith until we arrive safely home.

We thank you and ask this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Institution*

Rev. Stillwell

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: That the Lord Jesus Christ, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is broken for you; eat this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; that is poured out for you. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat of the bread and drink of the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Sharing in Communion

Closing Hymn

"Fill My Cup Lord"

Jody Mullis, pianist

Like the woman at the well I was seeking	There are millions in this world who are craving
for things that could not satisfy;	the pleasures earthly things afford;
and then I heard my Savior speaking:	but none can match the wondrous treasure
"Draw from my well that never shall run dry."	that I find in Jesus Christ my Lord. (Chorus)

(Chorus) Fill my cup, Lord,
I lift it up Lord!
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more.
fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

Benediction*

Rev. Stillwell

Go forth standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the Gospel, being confident of your salvation.

* You can listen to these pieces of worship at
<https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>
Previous Worship services can also be found on the Church website or on YouTube,
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfmiJ7C1O3X

**PRAYER
REQUEST**

Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) and Pastor Gena ((724) 263-0033 directly and confidentially. Or scroll down on the opening page of our website (www.fairhillmanorchurch.org) to "Requests for Prayer or Help." There you can send an email which will go directly to Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

Bill Behrens Rm 437
835 S Main Street
Washington PA 15301

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino
317 Wellness Way
Strabane Trails #325
Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

In the Military

Lance Dague
Terrell McClain
Brandon Lipscomb
Daniel Robinson
Shawn Dallatore
Andrew Gregg
Zachary Keene
Sarah Lipscomb
Travis Ringer
Emily Chase
Dylan Demain

Don Ainsley
Ed Alexy
Gary Anderson
Avery Allen
Donna Bakaitis
Tom Barnhart
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Abby Blanchard
Mark & Susan Britko
Mabel Brooks
Jordon Burk
Mary Chase
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Rick Couch
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Sue Donaldson
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Lois Gayman
Rose Ann Gorby
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

Judy Grover
Sloan Amelia Hagy
Kyle Hallam
Connie Hanning
Judy Hanning
Sheila Harris
Aryn Hess
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Bob Lanning
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &
Ty James Lacock
Von Lacock
Cheryl Leach
Libby LeDuff
Pastor Michael Lehman
Lee & Betsy Martin
Dave McConnell
Don Melvin
Parker Muhleman
Michaela Nixon
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Georgette Murray
Karen Palfreyman
Deborah Patterson
Joyce and Denny Paul
Betty & Charles Riecks

Betty Jo Riggle
Jim and Barb Roupe
John Shadeck
Theresa Shape
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Rolinda Sprowls
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Nadine Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Sarah Wittenberg
Marcie Yocum
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

Sign up for **Givelify**, the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities.

Givelify gives you an easy giving experience using your smartphone. There are no frustrating web forms to fill out, and recurring gifts are easy to set up and modify. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure and gives you access to your complete giving record.

Want to see how it works? [Watch the demonstration video](#) that shows you all about how to make and track donations.

Ready to get started? [Download](#) the Givelify app for Android or iPhone.

Givelify

Tap. Give. Done.



