

⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10



Abington Presbyterian Church

May 2, 2021

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter

ORDER OF WORSHIP
5th Sunday of Easter May 2, 2021

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

Gracious God, long ago faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our witness as sure. Amen.

PRELUDE Sacred Dance on Holy Manna *Janette Fishell*

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, lift up your praise in the great congregation:

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek God shall praise the Lord!

Let all the families of the nations worship God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and the Lord rules over the nations. Let us proclaim God's deliverance of us to all people!

* HYMN 385 All People That on Earth Do Dwell OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption,
you stand among us but we do not recognize you.**

**Living Spirit, you invite us to participate in the resurrection,
but we choose death instead.**

Although we love you with our words, our deeds often say otherwise.

Forgive us for these sins.

Make us one with Christ so that we might abide in him and he in us.

We look for redemption through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is no fear in love; perfect love casts out fear. We are fit to love God and others because the Spirit of God abides in us.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* HYMN 246 Christ is Alive! V. 1 & 4

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

**4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

*** THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Greet one another with the sign of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(11:00) THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Isaiah Javaid Gill, son of Farah I. Khan & Aized I. Gill

*** (11:00) BAPTISMAL CREED**

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.**

(11:00) BAPTISM SONG

Welcome, Child of God

AR HYD Y NOS

**Raindrops, oceans, lakes, and rivers; welcome, child of God.
Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters; welcome, child of God.
When the world feels wide around you,
When the dark of night surrounds you,
We are here to tend and guide you. Welcome, child of God.**

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-40

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The True Vine”

The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

* (9:00) AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

THANKSGIVING & SENDING

After the proclamation of God’s Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go into the world where we are called to live according to God’s will.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy... we join our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

HYMN 552 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

**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, Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty...that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God pour out your Holy Spirit...even as we pray as our Lord Jesus has 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 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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS

ANTHEM

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Hymn 509

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

* HYMN 824

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

MC AFEE

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Te Deum

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

[service hymns and some announcements follow]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

Liturgists: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill and Zene Colt (9:00), Jen Parsons (11:00)

Children's Message: Ruth Sall

Choir: (9:00) Kathy Messina, (11:00) Cynthia Browna and Kimberly Browna

Organ: Erik Meyer

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In need of special prayers this week: Len Browna, Michael Kemp, Laura Lockhart, Sylvia Weed (mother of Kathryn Jablokow), Barbara LaNore (sister of Lynda Smyth), Sylvia Jolly, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Gary Lynch (son of Doug Lynch), Chris Popescu (aunt of Joanne Bates), Marty Bell (cousin of Alice Price), Elizabeth Cole (granddaughter of Nancy Webb Cole), Doris Boerner, Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Janet Wells (mother of Gwen Bihn), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Phyllis Frazier, Nick Cupo, Sr., Joanne Hawkins (mother of Nick Cupo), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Kris and Erik Reidenbach (friends of Sally Adams), David Fryer (husband of Rabbi Shoshana Tornberg, friend of APC), Meredith Ellisor, (cousin of Craig Nicholson), Mark Meissner (son of Judy Meissner), Nina DiTimasso and Audrina Rose (friends of Anne-Marie Constable), Barb Kelly.

For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

All People That on Earth Do Dwell 385

(Psalm 100)

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good; his mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make; we are his folk; he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - jice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest 824

Near to the Heart of God

1 There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,
 2 There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,
 3 There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,

a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.
 a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.
 a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

Refrain

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,

hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.