



---

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 16, 2021 9:00am

**“Your enjoyment of the world is never right,  
till every morning you awake in heaven.” – Thomas Traherne**

*Prior to the service you are invited to prepare yourself for worship.  
Some people prefer to meditate or pray,  
while others may speak softly with their fellow-worshippers.  
As the prelude begins, we invite you to open your ears and still your voices.*

Prelude

Halle, Halle, Halle  
arr. Sondra Tucker

*We are called to worship,  
drawing our attention forward and upward.*

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

Psalm 98

We gather to worship the One who spun stars into the heavens  
and called rivers and mountains into being.

**Our melodies of joy join the anthems of creation.**

We gather to live our praise to the God who gave us voice,

**lifting together the songs of faith.**

Come, let us worship the Lord!

*We focus our attention on God's Glory and offer our praise in word and song.*

\*Opening Prayer

Creating God, the oldest song is made new in our hearts:

**Christ is risen! Sing alleluia!**

**You invite us to lift our voices of hope into a world crushed by despair and haunted  
by fear. We offer these melodies of faith to you. Amen.**

\*Hymn # 26 (You are invited to hum the melody)

Earth and All Stars!

*Reflecting on God's Glory makes us aware of our common sinfulness and need for forgiveness.*

*This honesty before God and each other opens our hearts  
to receive God's forgiveness, which we celebrate with word and song.*

### Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

O God, whose will it is that all your children should be one in Christ;

**we pray for the unity of your church.**

**Pardon all our pride and lack of faith,  
of understanding and of charity,  
which are the causes of our divisions.**

**Deliver us from narrow-mindedness,  
from our bitterness,  
from our prejudices.**

**Save us from considering as normal  
that which is a scandal to the world  
and an offense to your love.**

**Teach us to recognize the gifts of grace  
among all those who call upon you. Amen.**

In Christ Jesus we are reconciled to God and to one another.

**God's promises are sure: our sins are forgiven.**

Let us accept this invitation to live as a forgiven people,  
bringing God's grace to a world in need of love.

### Response

Meineke

**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.**

*Forgiven and restored, we give of what God has given us in time, talents, and treasure,  
and we pray together as an active part of our worship and witness.*

### Ministry Updates

#### Prayers of the People 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. Amen.**

*The Scriptures hold a central place in our worship, and so are read early and often.*

*We ask God to inspire both the reading and the hearing of these words,  
and listen for what God may reveal in them.*

*The music and messages are designed to help interpret the Scriptures  
and help us to apply them to our daily living.*

Special music

Festive Peal by Karen Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

**Enlighten the eyes of our hearts, O God, and grant us a spirit of wisdom through the reading of your Word. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Children’s Message

Response

God of Great and God of Small

Special music

The Prayer  
From the musical Quest for Camelot

Sermon

“Three Calls and Two Questions”

Caroline Cupp

*Once we hear God’s Word we desire to respond in word and in deed,  
so we say and sing what we believe.*

Affirmation of Faith: 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.**

Hymn # 839 (You are invited to hum the melody)

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Blessing and Response

Postlude

Improvisation on Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

\*You are invited to stand as you wish.

## WHAT HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES

**Leading us in worship** today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Lyndsay and Michael Spaziani, soloists; Pete and Nolan Prochnau, Eric Hankins, percussions; The Chancel Ringers. Serving on our Welcome Team are Judy Reynolds and Dennis Park.

**The Sacrament of Baptism** is being administered to Mila Lynn Rowan, born April 1, 2020, daughter of Brandon and Priscilla Rowan, during the 10:42 service; and to Eleanor Lee Ohms, born July 31, 2020, daughter of Stephen and Elyse Ohms, granddaughter of Dan and Nancy Ohms, at 12:15 p.m.

**Our sympathy and prayers** are with Adriana Visscher and family in the death of her grandson.

**May Anti-Racism Conversation:** Now that the group has spent nearly a year reading, listening to speakers, watching videos, and discussing, we're going to use our last session (today at noon) to think about WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE. We'll consider how we use what we've learned and put it into action. We'll be joined by Dr. Brenda Brown Wright who will help facilitate our discussion. She is recently retired as a Professor from Wilmington University's MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, and currently has her own private counseling practice in Newark, DE. She developed a course called "Diverse Populations" which helped students not only understand and interact best with different cultures, but also lead them to understand their own beliefs and difficulties when interacting with other cultures. The zoom link is available at [www.firstpreswc.com/racial-justice](http://www.firstpreswc.com/racial-justice).

**Prayer Walk in West Chester** - During the week of May 23, we're asking church members and friends to take a prayer walk around town. You can pair up with a friend or go on your own, you choose the time and day, and you can walk it, run it, drive it or bike it! Before that week, we'll share a list of 15 locations in town (non-profits, nursing homes, fire stations, etc.). We're asking that you say a brief prayer for each of the organizations and its people (a sample will be provided) as you do the walk. The church will reach out to each of those groups to let them know that we are praying for them. No need to sign up; although photos of your walk or a quick note to say that you did it are welcome! (Send to Elizabeth at [ehess@firstpreswc.com](mailto:ehess@firstpreswc.com).) Feel free to tag us with a social media post or photos with #fpcprayerwalk. Not a walker? A "virtual" prayer walk at home would be great!

**Congregational Conversation on May 23.** Following both worship services, Session will present a brief presentation concerning the timeline and objectives of our transitional time. The recorded portion will be shown following each service, and a zoom conversation will be hosted on Thursday, May 27, at 7:30 p.m. for anyone who has questions or comments. Watch your e-news for more information.