**SECOND SUNDAY**

**OF EASTER**



**First Presbyterian Church**

300 Market Street, Warren, PA 16365-2360

Following Christ So All May Thrive

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**April 19, 2020**

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY**

Second Sunday of Easter

**April 19, 2020 10:00 AM**

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*Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.*

**We GATHER in God’s GRACE**

PRELUDE: *An Unseen World* Paul Cardall

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) (verses from Psalm 16)

L: I will bless the Lord who advises me; even at night I am instructed in the depths of my mind.

**P: I always put the Lord in front of me; I will not stumble because God is on my right side!**

L: You, Lord, teach me the way of life.

**P: In your presence is total celebration!**

\*HYMN *Thine Is the Glory* #238

CALL TO CONFESSION: (based on Acts 10)

If we think that God favors certain people over others, we are mistaken. God accepts everyone who honors and lives for Christ – who is Lord of all. But we know that our lives do not always line up with God’s desires for us. We need God’s grace! Trusting that God wills us to be free in Christ, let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Holy God, we admit that we have moments of not being really sure what we believe about Jesus being raised from the dead. At times we wonder how long we can continue to trust that you are still at work in our lives and in the world. And sometimes we even long for a clear sign from you that you are still present with us! Forgive our weakness and uncertainty! Stir us by your Holy Spirit that we may be renewed in faith this day! Empower us to share your life-giving love with others! Hear us as we ask for your mercy in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

TIME FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

WORDS ASSURING US OF GOD’S GRACE (Responsive) (based on Acts 10)

L: Receive this Good News: Christ alone is judge of the living and the dead!

**P: All who believe in him receive forgiveness through his holy name!**

L: Believing that God raised Jesus from the dead, we bear witness to the new life we receive in him!

**P: Praise God! In Christ, we are forgiven and made new!**

**WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD**

\*RESPONSE *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* #582

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison):

**Only with the help of your Spirit, O God, can we receive your Word for us today! We ask that you provide us with understanding so that we may live and love and serve in response to your life-giving Word! Hear us as we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING I Peter 1:3-9 (Common English Bible)

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish—an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you. Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God’s power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time. You now rejoice in this hope, even if it’s necessary for you to be distressed for a short time by various trials. This is necessary so that your faith may be found genuine. (Your faith is more valuable than gold, which will be destroyed even though it is itself tested by fire.) Your genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor for you when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you’ve never seen him, you love him. Even though you don’t see him now, you trust him and so rejoice with a glorious joy that is too much for words. You are receiving the goal of your faith: your salvation.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 20: 19-29 (Common English Bible)

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.” Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.” After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!” Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

THE WORD EXPLORED: Minding the Mirror Rev. Rebecca Taylor

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (traditional)

**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 AFFIRMING OUR FAITH (Unison) (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

**In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus God kept his promises. All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ. But the work of God in Christ is not over. God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen. The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence that supports us when lesser hopes fail us. In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth, certainty of victory over death, assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death. This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.**

\*HYMN *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* #254

\*BENEDICTION Ephesians 1:18-20 (Common English Bible)

I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God’s call, what is the richness of God’s glorious inheritance among believers,and what is the overwhelming greatness of God’s power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God’s powerful strength. God’s power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God’s right side in the heavens.

Remember: you are never alone. You are always held in the love of God, kept in the grace of Jesus the Christ, and accompanied by the Holy Spirit!







\* THE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NEXT WEEK\*\*\*

Acts 2:14a, 36–41 1 Peter 1:17–23

Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 Luke 24:13–35

Questions for Reflection

The disciples on the road to Emmaus were with Jesus for hours as he taught them the meaning of the Scriptures. However, they finally recognized him as the risen Lord only in “the breaking of the bread.” How does the Lord’s Supper enable you to recognize Jesus?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus, your rising from tomb heralds the dawning of life eternal as the dawning of this day holds the possibilities of life anew. Open my eyes to the signs of your resurrection and confirm in my heart the power of your amazing love, that I may with confidence sing “Alleluia.” Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, you have upheld me with your love even when I have not been aware of your presence. As I rest from my labors let me sleep without fear of darkness or death and rise refreshed to begin a new day in humble service, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*\*Taken from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2*. © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**OUR STAFF**

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Kyle Brecht, Property Manager Ben Check, Assist. Property Manager

Courtney Robillard, Childcare Curtis Tyler, Childcare

Lori VanOrd, Childcare Terri Shaw, Childcare

**THE SESSION**

Ross Bryan Joanna Elletson

Rene’ Davis Ann Ferguson

Gale Dyke Ray Pring

Larry Dyke Carrie Salapek

Jim Eggleston Lynn Sears

Vickie Eggleston

**\*\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS \*\*\***

**THE REVEREND DR. DAVID OYLER** will be the special guest preacher on Sunday, April 26th, 2020. The service will be available online and copies of his sermon will be provided.

**EASTER HOLIDAY HOT MEALS**-have been postponed. Information will be published once a new date has been set.

**A picture containing weapon, nature

Description automatically generatedONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING-**Join in God’s call to share our bread with the hungry, to aid and shelter people overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and to resource communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression. Gifts will be received through this Sunday, **April 26, 2020**. Online donations may be designated for One Great Hour of Sharing.

**BEING RESCHEDULED:** A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

**SHARING PLACE-**For the foreseeable future we are not having the host churches send their teams.

**\*\*\* JOYS AND CONCERNS \*\*\***

**Joys:**

Janice & Don O’Neil, Lila Hookins’ sister & brother-in-law, hospitalized with Coronavirus, now able to be up and moving around in their hospital room.

Bob Sears who is training to assist in leading Bible Studies at SCI Cambridge Springs

**Concerns:**

Prayers for our members and friends residing in care facilities and receiving care at home

Prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus and those in the medical community attending to the sick

Prayers for Connor and Christian

Prayers for Bill

Prayers for Mary Schorman, recovering from surgery

Prayers of healing for Wanda Monts

Courage, Strength and Faith to Larfay Austin Jr during his incarceration

Prayers for Carinne Palm, Vickie Eggleston’s sister, undergoing radiation treatments

Prayers for Trevor, recovering from shoulder surgery

Prayers for Susan Wenzel, who has health concerns

Prayers for Lynda Slocum’s son Andy and grandson, Brayden

Prayers for Lois Buerkle, Lynn Sears’ sister, as she undergoes treatments for cancer

Prayers for Andy Yurick

Prayers for Louise Crozier and family

Prayers for Katie Roth Spiegel, who is undergoing treatment for cancer

Prayers for Wally Post

Prayers for Lisa Huey Hochberg and others struggling with dementia and alzheimer’s

Prayers for Seth

Prayers for Margaret Taylor, Rebecca’s mother, under Hospice care

Prayers for our members and friends residing in care facilities

Prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus.

Courage, strength, and faith to all those affected by violent crimes.

Those serving in our military, people struggling with addiction, and those in jail

Those facing famine and hunger in remote and desolate places.

Let the Light of the Lord shine on all peoples in all nations

**\*\*\* PRESBYTERY JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS \*\*\***

We pray for the churches and ministerial staff that constitute the Lake Erie Presbytery. This week we pray for Utica, Commissioned Pastor, Tina Kaye and Ruling Elder, Tim Olsen, Moderator of the Coordinating Committee