**First Presbyterian Church**

300 Market Street, Warren, PA 16365-2360

Following Christ So All May Thrive

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00AM-2:00PM

Phone: (814) 723-9200 Fax: (814) 723-6049 E-mail: admin@presbyterianwarren.com

Rev. Rebecca Taylor: (814) 313-1136 (h) (814) 596-8682 (c) Email: rebecca@presbyterianwarren.com

Website: www.presbyterianwarren.com

**May 17, 2020**

**SIXTH SUNDAY**

**OF EASTER**



**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

**May 17, 2020 10:00 AM**

*Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.*

**We GATHER in God’s GRACE**

PRELUDE Lucy Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) (verses from Psalm 66)

L: Come close and listen, all you who honor God; I will tell you what God has done for me:

**P: My mouth cried out to the Lord with praise on my tongue.**

L: God definitely listened. The Lord heard the sound of my prayer.

**P: God didn’t withhold his faithful love from me!**

\*HYMN *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* #804

CALL TO CONFESSION: (based on Psalm 103)

Remembering all the benefits we have received from God’s good deeds and faithful love, we come before God to ask for mercy once more. We know that we do not bless God with our whole being! Trusting that God is more gracious than we deserve and more patient with us than we can imagine, let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Gracious God, sometimes we just don’t know what to say! We don’t know why we do what we do at times, especially when we are critical and insensitive! We often feel at a loss for words as well when others ask us what we believe about you. In your love for us, help us, O God, so we may live in ways that are more consistent with who you call us to be! Grant us grace as we seek to honor you with our words and with our whole lives! 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 Psalm 103)

L: The Lord to whom we turn is compassionate and merciful, very patient, full of unfailing love!

**P: We are comforted in knowing that God does not deal with us according to our sin!**

L: The God to whom we look remembers that we are human, needing guidance and grace!

**P: We are renewed in God’s everlasting love! Bless God’s holy name forevermore!**

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

**WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison):

**In these challenging times, O God, we need to understand your Word for us! Help us by the power of your Holy Spirit so we may hear, trust, and receive your encouraging word as we worship you this day! Hear us as we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Acts 17:22-28 (Common English Bible)

Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, “People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown God.’ What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn’t live in temples made with human hands. Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn’t far away from any of us. In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, ‘We are his offspring.’

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING I Peter 3:8-15 (Common English Bible)

Finally, all of you be of one mind, sympathetic, lovers of your fellow believers, compassionate, and modest in your opinion of yourselves. Don’t pay back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give blessing in return. You were called to do this so that you might inherit a blessing. For *those who want to love life*  
*and see good days* *should keep their tongue from evil speaking* *and their lips from speaking lies.* *They should shun evil and do good;* *seek peace and chase after it.* *The Lord’s eyes are on the righteous* *and his ears are open to their prayers.* *But the Lord cannot tolerate those who do evil.* Who will harm you if you are zealous for good? But happy are you, even if you suffer because of righteousness! Don’t be terrified or upset by them. Instead, regard Christ the Lord as holy in your hearts. Whenever anyone asks you to speak of your hope, be ready to defend it.

SERMON: Got Some ‘Splainin’ To Do? Rev. Rebecca Taylor

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

OFFERING

*Please consider sending your gift through the mail or by utilizing the online giving function on the church’s website! God’s mission continues even though public worship is temporarily suspended!*

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*)

**Jesus was dead and buried, but God raised him from the dead. The risen Lord appeared to his followers. They recognized him as their Master who had been crucified. Before Jesus left them, he commissioned them to proclaim to all people the good news of his victory over death, and promised to be with them always.**

**We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God. We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life.**

**Jesus is Lord!**

**He has been Lord from the beginning.**

**He will be Lord at the end.**

**Even now he is Lord!**

\*HYMN *Lift High the Cross* #826

\*BENEDICTION Luke 21:13-15 (Common English Bible)

This will provide you with an opportunity to testify. Make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance. I’ll give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to counter or contradict.

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 1:6–14 1 Peter** 4:12–14; **5:6–11**

Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 John 17:1–11

Questions for Reflection

Where have you experienced God’s welcome in your life? Where have you experienced God’s welcome in your church? If we are to be one with Christ, as Christ is one with God, how can your church become a more compelling witness to God’s radical invitation to homecoming?

Household Prayer: Morning

Delivering God, you have safely brought me to this new day. Keep me free from all dangers, perils, and troubles. By the power of your Spirit, strengthen my focus as I seek to follow Christ and to humbly serve your truth. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening Redeeming God, by your mighty hand you have safely brought me to this night, and for this and all other mercies, I give you thanks. Post your angels around me this night that I may rest in peace. 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**

Rev. Rebecca Taylor, Pastor rebecca@presbyterianwarren.com

Hunter Peterson, Director of Music hmpeterson100@gmail.com

Barb Hill, Administrative Assistant admin@presbyterianwarren.com

Betsy Griffin, Financial Secretary [finance@presyterianwarren.com](mailto:finance@presyterianwarren.com)

Events and Communications Coordinator [connect@presbyterianwarren.com](mailto:connect@presbyterianwarren.com)

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





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

**Joys:**

Susan Wenzel, who is recovering from successful surgery

Sam Salapek who is recovering from successful heart surgery

Janice & Don O’Neil, Lila Hookins’ sister & brother-in-law, who are now at home!

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 Norm Perschke who is hospitalized

Prayers for Sherran Jones who is at the Rouse Home

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

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 Harborcreek, Commissioned Pastor Robin Cuneo and Mission Co-workers Josh Heikkila and Ruth Brown, Ghana

Heaven: What Can We Really Know About It?

Pastor’s Study – May 2020

10:00 AM via Zoom

Schedule

Session Three:

Monday, May 18th:

Longing for heaven? when? where? why?

Topic: Warren Bible Study

Time: May 18, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84469007773?pwd=OTZpWHlNWW84cDdXOE1Ed20xNUJoQT09>

Meeting ID: 844 6900 7773

Password: 159412

Dial by

        +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Please reflect on these prompts:

I believe heaven is…

Some questions I have about heaven are…