



# First Presbyterian Church

meets at

292 West Main Street · Newark, DE 19711  
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May 2, 2021



*A nurturing community in Jesus Christ reflecting God's love for the world  
as we Worship, Grow and Serve.*

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*“God’s Time Is Best”*

J.S. Bach

\* **PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP** *“As The Deer”*

Nystrom

*(this is a prayer we will sing to prepare our hearts for worship)*

As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after Thee.  
You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship Thee.  
You alone are my strength, my shield; To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship Thee.

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Psalm 22:25-31

One: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**All: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.**

One: May your hearts live forever!

**All: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.**

One: For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**All: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

\* **HYMN 232**

*“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”*

EASTER HYMN

Larry Peterson, organ and Carillon Ringers

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Loving and creating God, you looked upon our world and saw our brokenness. You longed for us to live new lives. You called across the centuries by your prophets, and finally you reached out by sending your Son into our world, to bring a message of undying and unqualified love. His words were to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Christ's definition of neighbor was anybody in need. And he did mean anybody. We love to qualify that meaning to those who are like us, those who are not troublemakers, or those who keep quiet. It is hard to imagine a savior who even on the cross in pain and dying put forth a new vision for our world: "The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD." Help us to have the strength to seek vision for our congregation and ourselves.**

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Creating God your words come to us across centuries and continents. Words spoken to generations before us and will be spoken to generations after us. And yet somehow, they are also meant to speak to us this day, and in this place. Center us and quiet in us all the other voices of the week, that we may listen with attentive ears to the words that will be spoken. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch can not bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON

“The Vine and the Branches”

Rev. Eric Markman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

\* HYMN 526

*“Let Us Talents and Tongue Employ”*

LINSTEAD

Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken; the wine is poured;  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*(refrain)* Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

(cont. on next page)

Christ is able to make us one;  
at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express. (*refrain*)

Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere! (*refrain*)

#### CALL FOR THE OFFERING

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### ANTHEM

“Hymn of Promise”

Natalie Sleeth

Larry Peterson, organ and Carillon Ringers

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

*As each person is prayed for the minister will say: Lord in Your Mercy, and the people will respond:  
Hear our prayer.*

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (unison)

from John Wurster and the Presbyterian Outlook

**Merciful God, powerful and wonderful, eternally present and graciously close, we are grateful for what you have given us in Jesus Christ, life and love without end. Prompted by your Spirit and encouraged by your faithfulness, we lift to you the cares and concerns of our hearts, the burdens and the worries of our lives. We pray that the sick would be healed, that the broken would be mended, that the mournful would be comforted. We pray that warriors would yield to peace, that leaders would gain wisdom, that the forsaken would be gathered in. We pray that the sorrowful would be consoled, that the poor would be lifted up, that the anxious would be released. We pray for children in their growing and for youth in their seeking. We pray for those making new starts and for those nearing a journey’s end. We pray for those facing hard choices and for those enduring painful consequences. We pray for those filled with bitterness and for those who are just empty. We pray that your church might claim its potential, that the body of Christ might be strengthened by its many parts, that the work of ministry might be done with joy and thanksgiving. We pray for the courage to follow Jesus, for the faith to trust your promises to us, for the vision to see your kingdom among us even now. We pray for all that you would have us pray. We pray for those for whom no one prays. We pray all of these things in the name of the one ceaselessly praying for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.**

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

##### INVITATION TO THE TABLE/GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe....

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**All Sing:**                   **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,**  
**HYMN 565**                   **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.**

**One:**       You are holy, O God of Majesty...that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.  
          Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**All :**       **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

#### **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.**

**Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **SACRAMENT OF GOD'S GRACE**

*The table of the LORD is open to all believers who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and all children who have been instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament. You may partake of the bread when you are ready; please hold the cup, and we will share it together.*

#### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\* HYMN 450**

*"Be Thou My Vision"*

SLANE

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

#### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* SONG OF SENDING

*“Holy Water”*

Cash

God, I'm on my knees again.  
God, I'm begging please again.  
I need You.  
Oh, I need You.

Walking down these desert roads,  
Water for my thirsty soul,  
I need You.  
Oh, I need You.

*(chorus)* Your forgiveness  
Is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips,  
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears,  
Like holy water (on my skin).

Dead man walking, slave to sin,  
I wanna know about being born again.  
I need You.  
Oh God, I need You.  
So take me to the riverside.  
Take me under baptize.  
I need You,  
Oh God, I need You, oh!

*(chorus 2 times)*

POSTLUDE

*“Praeludium in G Minor”*

Johannes Krebs

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DONATED BY:**  
Kern and Maryanne Piser in memory of loved ones.

**USHERS:** Joe and Lois Huggins

**Online giving is available through PayPal** or you can mail or drop your offerings off at the church office. Visit our website giving page for details.

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