

**McKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WORSHIP SERVICE**

5th Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

WE ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

"Great Are You Lord"

**Candice Holsinger, Organist
Arr. Cook**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

OPENING PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 118)**

(L) Sisters and Brothers, this is the day that the Lord has made,

(C) Let us rejoice and be glad today.

(L) Today we give thanks to the Lord,

(C) For He is good.

(L) Today we give thanks to the Lord,

(C) For His steadfast love endures forever.

(L) Today we give thanks to the Lord,

(C) For the Lord is on our side!

(L) Today we have nothing to fear!

(ALL) Today we give thanks to the Lord.

***HYMN #1**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

No. 343, blue

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Almighty God, Merciful Lord,

You call us to "get up" and "go" toward the ends of the earth – toward the "fringes." We confess that we remain seated. We stay in the center where it's comfortable, where it feels safe. We travel our well-worn paths and repeat familiar patterns. We risk little in Your Name; we risk little for those on the fringe that you call us to.

Forgive us for failing to get up and go to where you call us and to whom you lead us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.

(pause for silent reflection)

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Hear the "Good News about Jesus Christ". He came to us not to condemn us but to save us. He died for us. He conquered sin and death and was raised for us. And now He sits at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.

Hear the Good News, In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven!

(ALL) Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 813, brown

**Glory be 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

JOYS

Leader: "For (joy), Gracious God..."

All: "we give you thanks"

CONCERNS

Leader: "For (concern), Merciful Lord ..."

All: "hear our prayer."

Let's pray together 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please contact the church by email or phone with your prayer requests during the week.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Please welcome the children & youth to the front of the sanctuary.

ANTHEM "In Christ There Is No East of West"

(Chancel Choir)

SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Then 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.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² 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.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?” ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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.

SERMON:

“The Fringes”

Rev. Michael Stanton

THE RESPONSE

WE COMMIT TO THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY

Candice Holsinger, Organist

***DOXOLOGY**

***HYMN #2**

“Love Divine All Loves Excelling” (Vv. 1 & 4)

No. 376, blue

THE EXIT

WE ENGAGE THE WORLD OF GOD

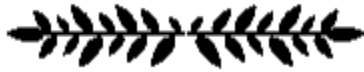
***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTUDE

“There Is a Fountain”

**Candice Holsinger, Organist
Arr. Traditional American Melody**

All those who are able, please stand



ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 28, 2024

FELLOWSHIP :

Please join together for friendship and fellowship after today's service.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE:

Please contact the church office.

FLOWERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY:

If you would like to purchase flowers to honor the "Mother's" in your life, please contact Kim Moore after service or call her 412-673-3193. You can also call the office. Flowers will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Mother's Day.

MCKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor-Rev. Michael Stanton

Director of Music-Edward R. Moore

Organists- Millie Kistler, Candice Holsinger, & Faye D'Ippolito

Office Assistant- Robin Enright

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