



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

May 21, 2023

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Lasky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 97:1-3

O sing to the Lord a new song for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 464 (V.1-3)

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord of love, grace, and mercy, we do adore Thee as we gaze upon your marvelous works that surround us. But at times, we confess that we adore ourselves a bit more. We take great pride in our accomplishments, assuming full credit for ourselves rather than acknowledging that it is the gifts given to us by you for which we should be grateful. And perhaps we fill ourselves to overflowing with delight over our many possessions rather than sharing more with those less fortunate. Then there are the days which are not so fulfilling, and we lose hope for our futures rather than turning to you in prayer, comfort and strength. Forgive us Lord, for our self-centeredness and send your Spirit to help us recall that all we are and all we hope to be depends on your love, grace, and mercy. In Christ's name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May the God of mercy who forgives us all our sins strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**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.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Amos 9:11-15

Acts 1:1-11

SERMON

Mission Impossible?

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

ANTHEM

God Has Work for Us to Do

music: Mark A. Miller
text: Carl P. Daw, Jr.
Jerry Cirka, soloist

'Til all the jails are empty and all the bellies filled;
till no one hurts or steals or lies, and no more blood is spilled:

*God has work for us to do, God has work for us to do,
'til God's will is done and all things are made new.
God has work for us, work for us to do.*

'Til age and race and gender no longer separate;
'til pulpit, press, and politics are free of greed and hate:

*God has work for us to do, God has work for us to do,
'til God's will is done and all things are made new, God has work for us.*

In tenement and mansion, in factory, farm, and mill.
In boardroom and in stadium, in wards where time stands still.
In classroom, church, and office, in shops, or on the street,
in every place where people thrive, or starve, or hide, or meet:

God has work for us, God has work for us.

By sitting at a bedside to hold pale, trembling hands,
by speaking for the powerless against unjust demands.
By praying through our doing, and singing though we fear,
by trusting that the seed we sow will bring God's harvest near:

*God has work for us to do, 'til God's will is done and all things are made new,
God has work for us, work for us to do.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 420 (V.1-4)

God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christlike graces,
Pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Paeon

Lasky

We welcome the Rev. Vernon Van Hise to the pulpit today. Rev. Van Hise is a life-long Presbyterian, having served as a Clerk of Session and is an ordained Deacon and Elder as well as a Teaching Elder. Before attending Princeton Theological Seminary, he was in the Marine Corps as a fighter pilot for seven years and is a Vietnam veteran. A graduate of Rutgers College, he worked on Wall Street for the Bank of New York for 22 years and retired when the call from God to go to seminary could no longer be avoided. He has served numerous churches in New Jersey and Pennsylvania as an interim pastor. He and his wife Angie (also an ordained Presbyterian minister) retired to Moravian Village here in Bethlehem after selling their Angus beef farm near Hershey, PA. They are blessed with three daughters, a son-in-law and five grandchildren.

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Vernon Van Hise, Guest Preacher
Bud Martin, Guest Organist
Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director
The Chancel Choir
Linda Martin, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed
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Amos 9:11-15

On that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen,
and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old;
in order that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations who are called by my name, says the Lord who does this.

The time is surely coming, says the Lord,
when the one who ploughs shall overtake the one who reaps,
and the treader of grapes the one who sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.
I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.
I will plant them upon their land, and they shall never again be plucked up
out of the land that I have given them, says the Lord your God.

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'