



First Presbyterian Church Sunday, May 1, 2022



Seeking the Faith – Sharing the Spirit Serving God’s People

You are invited to join us on our journey of faith! We seek to serve God, to minister to our community, and to love one another. Help us in our quest to become an ever more inclusive church that welcomes all people from all backgrounds, abilities, and identities. Come along and experience the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.



Order of Worship

Prayer in Preparation

Living Lord, you meet us in unexpected places and surprise us with the abundance of your love. Feed us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may follow you this day, and always; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Greeting and Welcome

Ministry of the Church

Leader: We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.

All: Thanks be to God!

Joys and Concerns

Leader: We give thanks to God for these blessings.

All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: For all these people and all who are in need

All: Please hold your people near, O God!

Prelude

Capriccio Excerpt from Partita 2

J. S. Bach

**Please stand as you are able*

Gathering for Worship

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad it in! Let us worship God.

***Hymn:** #662

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Call to Confession

Leader: The Apostle Paul reminds us that all fall short of the glory of God. Let us take time to confess our sins before God and with one another.

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Let us pray...

**All: Lord God, in the light of your glory
we see the evil we have done,
the suffering we have caused,
the good we have refused,
and the truth we have denied.
Heal us of our sin, wash us in your mercy,
and feed us with your grace,
so that we may follow your way
and tell the good news of the gospel. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: The grace of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us believe in that grace and in the spirit of true repentance, believe in the promise of reconciliation with God through Christ.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

Giving of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all!

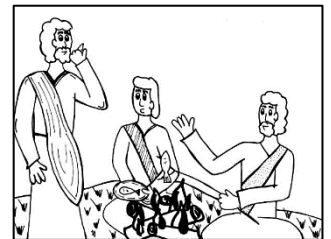
All: And also with you!

***Response:** #582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Children's Sermon: A (No) Ghost Story

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reader: O God of light, by the power of your Holy Spirit, restore our sight, that in these words of scripture and sermon we may see Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**



Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-3 (OT p.691)

Ministry of Music

New Testament Lesson

Acts 9:1-6 (NT p. 127)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of the Word: An Unexpectedly Perfect Choice

***Affirmation of Faith:** A Brief Statement of Faith (Section 4)

(Hymnal p. 38)

***Hymn:** #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

The Covenant Box

Invitation to the Offering

Leader: God gives new life to all that is, including ourselves and all that sustains us. So let our tithes and offerings be our songs of praise and thanksgiving.

Offertory:

Capriccio Excerpt from Partita 2

J. S. Bach

***#606 Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for the disheartened, courage for the frightened, and faith for the embittered.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your faithful witness, the first resurrected, and ruler of the sovereigns of the earth. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer and Congregational Prayer

Minister: God inspires us to pray, hears our prayers, and answers our prayers.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Minister: Let us pray...

Silent Prayer

Minister: Let us pray together...

Unison: 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 our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation

And deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power

And the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn:** #22

God of the Sparrow

***Blessing**

Postlude

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

arr. Jini

Moment for Reflection:

Feasting on the Word

Jesus chose Paul, who had persecuted Jesus' followers, to proclaim the good news of the gospel. Can anything separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ? -

Worship Assistants

Harry and Marta Davis- Greeters
Kathy Manfredi- Worship Assistant
Chanmi Jeong- Accompanist
Merit Sullivan- Videographer

Rolanda Quick- Head Usher
Kathy Manfredi- Scripture Reader
John Holt- Sound
Jane Swanson - Zoom Host

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022

9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom
11:00 am Faith Dialogues via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

3:30 pm Bible Study via Zoom

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022

9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom
11:00 am Faith Dialogues via Zoom

Pastor Kerry's Office Hours This Week
Monday - Thursday 10:00 am- 2:00 pm

If you would like a visit—or if you know someone who needs a visit—please let Pastor Kerry or one of the Deacons know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU for the Administrative Assistant's Day appreciation gifts. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated blessings. Barb

Pizza and Movie: Monday, April 16, 6:00 pm All are welcome to join us in the lounge for pizza and "go withs" followed by *Mr. Holland's Opus*. If you plan to attend, please let Kitty know phone or text: 618-203-1807; email: trescott@midwest.net

Presbyterian Women will meet Tuesday, May 17 at 1:00 pm. Contact Diane Cash for more details.

The Dinner Group will meet at Carbondale's Don Sol Restaurant Thursday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Sharon Wittke at sharonwittke@gmail.com or (618) 893-1869.

Camp Carew is celebrating their 70th anniversary with an open house Saturday, May 14, 1-4 pm. All are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Snider Hill Cemetery Workday--Saturday, May 21, 2022. Bring your tools, gloves, water, and sunscreen; we will gather at 9:00 a.m. and work 'til noon or so. For more information, contact Ro Quick or Beth Malmquist.

Joys and Concerns

Remember to Pray for:

- Ukraine Situation
- Afghan families who have arrived in Carbondale
- Transgender community under attack legislatively
- Our National, State, Regional, and Community Leaders
- Covid19 Pandemic patients and the ongoing vaccination efforts
- Social unrest and political polarization
- Those in the destructive path of natural disasters
- Those who are homeless, hungry, and in harm's way
- For the victims of mass shootings and hate crimes
- For those in shelters on the southern border
- For those who continue to be marginalized and underrepresented
- Service men and women

Each week we pray for one of the Carbondale Interfaith Council faith communities.

This week, please pray for: **Good Samaritan Ministries**

The Mission/Ministry we are praying for this month: **Nominating**

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus Christ, as you met your disciples at daybreak on the beach, meet us at the dawn of this new day. As you filled their nets with fish, fill our lives with love and grace, more than we can ask or imagine. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Gracious God, we praise for the blessing of this day and the promise of tomorrow. Be our helper as the night falls and our joy when the morning comes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

662 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light;
Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine; scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

#582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*
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Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

Isaiah 61:1-3 (OT P 691)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

Acts 9:1-6 (NT p. 127)

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

PCUSA A Brief Statement of Faith

4 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!"

#82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

#606 Praise God from Who All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#22 God of the Sparrow

God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home