



Rev. Marilyn K. Hale, Minister  
Norm King, Liturgist  
Judy McClain, Music Tech

May 2, 2021

Celebrating Communion

### *The Church Gathers to Worship*

*\*Those who wish may stand.*

MEDITATIVE READING

*Acts 8:26-40* (pg 127 [154 LP] NT)

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** Birds, at first light, welcome the morning that spreads full-sun into day.

**People:** Sunday, ours for Sabbath, welcomes the week, begun anew with fresh tomorrows awaiting.

**Leader:** Worship, here among us, welcomes our hearts, open and hopeful; the Spirit abiding within.

**People:** And we, together, welcome one another; the Love of God abiding, becoming our own to give.

HYMN #483

*"Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION (*Unison*)

God of all praise and glory, you lift our spirits high as we come and worship. The strength of your Presence fills this hour with hope and power without measure. Bless us, O Lord, to carry that strength with us, for we confess that beyond these walls, life has a way of nipping at the certainty of your Hand upon us. Steady our hearts, here and beyond, to trust in your abiding love. Hear us as we come in prayer to you...

PERSONAL CONFESSION (*in silence*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Leader:** Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**People:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

\*GLORIA PATRI

(pg 579 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

### *To Hear God's Word*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING *Psalm 22:25-31* (pg 501 [616 LP] OT)

NEW TESTAMENT READING *1 John 4:7-21* (pg 241 [292 LP] NT)

GOSPEL LESSON *John 15:1-8* (pg 109 [133 LP] NT)

SERMON Rev. Marilyn Hale

### *To Respond in Faith*

HYMN #366 *"Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED (pg 14 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### *The Service of Communion*

HYMN #505 *"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: (*prayer continues*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*) (pg. 16 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

(Continued on the back cover of the bulletin.)

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*The bread and cup for communion are  
in your pew in the small plastic bag.*

## PRAYER (*Unison*)

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life with you. Send us in the strength of your Spirit to serve in faith and love. May the witness of your hope and goodness live through all we say and do. Ever to the honor of your Name. Amen.

## HUNGER FUND OFFERING

*The Hunger Fund Offering is a special offering we gather after communion and is dedicated to ministries carried out in the local community.*

*Please leave your contributions in the offering plates as you exit.*

*To Serve in Love and Hope*

HYMN #432

*"Song of Hope"*

A TIME OF SHARING

CHARGE AND BLESSING

*(Please remain seated until an usher dismisses us pew-by-pew.)*



## NEWS TO SHARE

Our prayer family this week: Holly and Bob Fischer

Happy Birthday to... Erica Schmidt, May 7<sup>th</sup>!

Carol Everitt, May 8<sup>th</sup>!

### PENTECOST OFFERING

As one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Special offering envelopes are available in the pew racks and your gifts to the Pentecost Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary May 2-23. Our goal is \$750, and 40% of the offering will be used to support Woody's Supper Club. Gary "Woody" Woodhead recognized the importance of a family gathering to share a meal and the events of their day. In memory of her father, Carly Woodhead Painter initiated Woody's Supper Club at Belfast Central School to give students the opportunity to create memories shared around the table at mealtime. Please give as generously as you are able. Together we do make a difference!



The church has received a wedding invitation for Will Foust. He will marry Jada Keyarrow on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Grace Community Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell, PA. Cards may be sent to them at...

William and Jada

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