

Church of the Messiah

Fifth Sunday of Easter

2 May 2021

9:30 am



PRELUDE *Thorne*
Nassau/Wurtemberg

ENTRANCE HYMN *Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord*
Trio: Dale Murphy, Sam Frenkel, Marcelino Senteio

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson *Acts 8:26-40*

After the Lesson, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30

²⁴ My praise is of God in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

²⁵ The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

“May your heart live forever!”

²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷ For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.

²⁸ To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

- ²⁹ My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's forever.
- ³⁰ They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Lesson *1 John 4:7-21*

After the Lesson, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL ANTHEM *Ubi Caritas*

The Gospel is introduced: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel *John 15:1-8*

The Gospel is concluded: The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon *Abiding in the Vinegrower*, The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector, Church of the Messiah

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

*The congregational response to each petition: **The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!***

Exchange of the Peace

On this glorious morning, this day of Christian joy, and for all the days that follow,
may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Arise, My Love*

Card/Brasher

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere . . .
who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love . . .

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all . . .

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread & Invitation to Communion

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us your peace.

Behold! Holy food! And holy drink!
The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Sharing of Communion

COMMUNION MUSIC *Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus*

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Mission

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for
assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have
given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to
you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

The Blessing

May the truth of the empty tomb – the astonishing reality of Jesus' resurrection –keep you
fearless and sure that, with Mary Magdalene, Mary and Salome, Peter and the disciples, you
too will see the Resurrected One again and again in this life, and in the age to come.
May the power of God's endless love surround you and guide you, this day and always.
And may the blessing of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit –
be with you from this day forward.

Amen.

POSTLUDE / CLOSING *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*

The Dismissal

Go from this place renewed and strong, knowing that the Lord is alive, almighty and present.

Look for the blessings that await you in the week ahead.

Weep with those who weep. Rejoice with those who celebrate.

Proclaim the Good News of hope, promise and eternal life. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:

Acts 8:26-40 An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship²⁸ 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.

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.⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world.¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.²⁰ Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have

seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1-8 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED

- to the glory of God and our Risen Lord
- in loving memory of Carrie M. Jacobs, by Bill Jacobs
- in loving memory of Richard Patram, by his family

BIRTHDAYS IN THE WEEK AHEAD

* John Herninko * Cindy Palen * Kerry MacMinn * Samantha Jabs * Cynthia Curtis *
* Emily Zelnor * Sarah Kaelin * Emmy Subers * Rachel Amey * Evelyn Ferullo * Kris Casey *

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

VIDEO TECH TEAM MEMBERS – Meet by the organ at the close of the service. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS! To Hayden Dunlap, honored today for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout!

MULTIPLE WAYS TO JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP: Thanks to the wonders of modern technology and the hard work of several parishioners, we are able to offer a variety of ways to participate in Sunday services:

- **IN-PERSON** - 9:30am – COVID precautions strictly observed
- **LIVE-STREAMED** - the service will be broadcast on YouTube – follow the link posted on the church website (messiahgwynedd.org)
- **BY PHONE** – for those without computer access, dial 609-663-5164 to listen to an audio-only option on your phone
- **WEBSITE** – at the close of the service, a video will be posted to the parish website (messiahgwynedd.org) for viewing at a time convenient for you

CONTACT TRACING: If you are diagnosed as COVID-positive, please be sure to notify the Church Office as quickly as possible and let us know what service(s) you attended. We can contact others who attended the same service, informing them of their possible exposure to the virus.

YOM SUMMER MISSION TRIP – JUNE 21-25 – See flyer included

FORWARD DAY BY DAY: Copies of the next edition of this popular devotional for the coming quarter (May, June, July) have arrived and are available to be picked up in the narthex. Copies are free. If you are unable to pick one up in person, please contact the church office and one will be mailed.

ALTAR MEMORIAL FLOWER OPEN DATES: There are several dates available for memorial altar flowers. Suggested donation amount: \$60.00. If you would like to dedicate flowers for one of these dates (listed below), please contact the Rector (rector@messiahgwynedd.org; 215-699-9204).

- July 11
- October 3

WEEKLY PARISH EMAIL MESSAGES & NOTIFICATIONS: Each week, the Rector sends an email to all parishioners with important notifications and information about parish events and other happenings. If you are not currently receiving these messages, please contact the Church Office (215-699-9204; office@messiahgwynedd.org) so we can add you to the database.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS: Please contact the Church Office (215-699-9204; office@messiahgwynedd.org) so we can add you to the mailing list of those parishioners who receive hard copies of the messages and sermon by mail.

IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS: Should you have an urgent need to contact the Rector outside of Church Office hours, please use his cell phone: 215-692-2667.

SERVING MESSIAH THIS MORNING

9:30	Chimer	Alex Rasmussen
	Contact Tracing Table	Vicky Fogel, Barbara Stevenson
	Ushers	Brenda Weir, Vicky Fogel
	Lectors & Intercessor	Sam Frenkel, Barbara Stevenson
	Videographer	Nick Kapusta
	Altar Flowers	Nancy Alpert-Sisson, Deb Casey

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH: May 3-9

Monday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm
Tuesday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm AA, Alanon, Alateen – 7:30pm
Wednesday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm
Thursday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm
Friday	Church Office CLOSED
Saturday	Church Office CLOSED
Next Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:30am – Holy Eucharist – <i>in-person worship gathering</i> 10:30am - “ <i>Virtual</i> ” Church School lesson and activities 5:00pm – YOM meeting <i>in-person</i>

YOM 2021 Mission Trip

Local Ministry Week

We are excited to announce our Summer 2021 Mission Trip! This year our week of service will look a bit different. Our group will be working together for several consecutive weekdays during the week of June 21-25. We are coordinating with several different organizations and outreach programs in Philadelphia and Montgomery County, and our group will be volunteering at different locations each day. During a typical year we would be traveling out of state or out of the country, and we would usually be sharing some tight living arrangements with groups from other states. Although we are not travelling far this year, we recognize that there are many needs within our own community and those surrounding us nearby. This past year has brought a lot of challenges, not just financially but also emotionally and spiritually. We hope that throughout this week of service our ministry group can bring healing, love and hope to the people in our communities.

Dates: Monday, June 21st - Friday, June 25th

Who Can Go: Any Youth entering 7th - 12th grade who are currently in our YOM program or will be entering into the YOM program in the coming year. If any youth have friends who are interested in this great experience, we are always open to allowing our ministry to grow!

How Much Will The Trip Cost: The total amount for our week of service will be \$100. This will help cover our costs for transportation, materials for some of our volunteer sites, evening meals, and our Friday activities. Some of the expenses are already being covered by our youth fund.

How To Sign Up: Please fill out a Mission Trip Sign Up form and turn it in along with \$100 to reserve your space! If you have any friends who may be interested, please have them contact us so that we may provide information on the trip and answer any questions.

We hope you decide to join us for this unique ministry opportunity!

If you have any questions about signing up or our trip in general,

please contact Dave Reichley at:

dareichley@gmail.com or 267-664-2276

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH STAFF

The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector
Sarah Patram, Bookkeeper
Hannah Albrecht, Organist & Choir Director
Tiffany Reichley, Family Ministries – Children
David Reichley, Family Ministries – Youth
Mike Linn, Sexton

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH VESTRY

David Prezuhy, Sr. Warden
Barbara Stevenson, Jr. Warden
Sam Frenkel, Treasurer
Tina Madison, Clerk
Class of 2021: Vicky Fogel, Susan Miller, Charles Sudlow
Class of 2022: Cheryl Berry, Megan Myers, Michael Stinson, Paul Vollmar
Class of 2023: Tim Beaver, Jennifer Marsh, Jon Marshall, Mercer Sisson

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

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Happy
Easter