

May 15, 2022

*Our PCAS Vision: "To be a Light by Living, Loving, Learning,
and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*

Order of Worship

*(*Please rise in body and/or spirit)*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Give Thanks

Arr. Joel Raney

Candle lighting

*Call to Worship

Leader: Child of God, you are welcome here.

**People: We gather with our siblings,
sustained by the faith of Christ.**

Leader: Child of God, you are called.

**People: People: Our hope is in God's light, working
together to build the Kingdom of Heaven.**

Leader: Child of God, you are loved.

**People: May God's love always fill us to overflowing,
sustaining our Spirits.**

*Hymn #346 For the Healing of the Nations

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

Call to Confession

Leader: In contrast with those whose pride and self-righteousness hinder true wisdom and faith, we choose a different way. We choose

humility and we make room in our thinking for God to teach us and mold us. Therefore we pray, confessing our sin together:

Prayer of Confession (**unison**)

Gracious and Loving God, in seeking to live and love as Christ, we confess that something holds us back. There are so many reasons that prevent us from walking in your way: a lack of understanding, an unspoken hesitation, the challenge of being in fellowship with all of God's people. When you lead us beyond our narrow expectations of the life of faith, we find ourselves uncertain and stumbling. Assure us, Lord, that the sin is never in stumbling. Everyone must learn to walk somehow.

But if we are tempted to plant our feet, Lord, help us see our error, and get moving in your direction again.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Nothing prevents God from loving and forgiving you. Nothing can stand in the way of God's love and forgiveness reaching you. Nothing about you prevents God from granting grace, even if others insist otherwise.

You are worthy of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Receive it in faith and be glad.

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson 2 Corinthians 1:17b-22

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

Children's Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

*Passing of the Peace

*Hymn We Come to Celebrate

We come today to celebrate the life that Jesus gives,
and welcome in God's loving grace that in the Spirit lives.

The Spirit sanctifies our lives and helps our darkest days;
we hold each other close to You with voices joined in praise.
We celebrate diversity, as well as common ground,
and will continue so to do while love and peace are found.

For Christ does not discriminate, but welcomes one and all;
so we will seek to do the same, responding to God's call.

Second Scripture Lesson Acts 8:26-40

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

Sermon "God Acts: The Unlikely Baptism"

Offering

Offertory The Gift of Love Arr. Hal Hopson

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #754 Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

*Benediction

Postlude The Lord of the Dance
 Sydney Carter - Arr. for flute and piano Joel Raney

Worship Leaders

Liturgist:	Elder Linda Zucaro
Ushers:	Team A
Zoom Host:	Jim Wright
Hymn Leadership:	Sean Starke
Organ and Piano:	Marcello Velame
Flute:	Chelsea Korkowski
Video Editing:	Rich Vodhanel
Coffee Hour:	Fellowship Committee

Church Staff

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Director of Music Ministries:	Marcello Velame
Sexton:	Douglas Silk

Opportunities for Loving Our Neighbors

Strawberry Festival Donations—May 1st-31st

The Annual Strawberry festival will be held Saturday, June 4th, from 9:30-2:00.

In addition to hoping that you attend and invite friends, we could use your support by sorting, cleaning, and/or pricing items before the festival, and by donating the following types of items:

Useful and Decorative Home Goods, Beach/Picnic/Fashion Accessories, Books for the Book Nook

Please contact Kay Healy-Wedsworth (kayhw@comcast.net), May Truxal (maytruxal@verizon.net), or Nancy Vodhanel (nvodhanel@gmail.com, 732-530-7641) if you have questions about donations or if you can help.

Please put donations in the Omega Room in the Church House.

Food Drive: The Deacons invite you to donate shelf stable food for the Eatontown CO-OP. You may leave donations in the bin or the foyer of the Church House.

Reflections on What we Believe

“Press forward at all times, climbing forward toward that higher ground of the harmonious society that shapes the laws of man to the laws of God.”

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Are you— Color Blind? Color Brave? Neither? Not Sure? Let’s Talk! You are invited to join in a series of small group conversations about racism and anti-racism. May 25th and June 8th, 6-7:30pm. Let us know you’re coming – email or call the office.

Sanctuary A/V Installation: we are closing in on the installation date (fingers crossed all the equipment arrives in the next week or so!). We invite you to consider supporting the project with a donation of \$20, \$35, or \$50 which will be matched. We have a good start thanks to two generous people; help us get the rest of the way. Many hands make light work – many smaller gifts will get us there. Label any contributions “A/V Project”. Thank you.

Choir: All are welcome to join us. Rehearsals 8:30-9:30am on Sundays.

Chancel Flowers: Please sign up to dedicate and supply flowers in memory of your loved ones. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer of The Church House, or call or email the church office.

Church Groups and Committees who wish to meet in the Church House can call the office (732 747 3557) or email to book your meetings.

Meeting Schedule

Week of May 15

15	MAY, SUN	● 8:30 – 9:30am	Choir Practice
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (FH)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
		● 11:30am – 1pm	Worship Committee (TR)
16	MAY, MON	● 10:30am – 12:30pm	C&S (TR)
		● 4 – 6pm	Yoga (Studio)
17	MAY, TUE	● 9 – 11am	Yoga (Studio)
		● 9 – 10am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 7:30 – 9pm	Session Meeting (FH)
18	MAY, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Anti-Racism Cmte Mtg (TR)
19	MAY, THU	● 6 – 7pm	Bell Practice (SR)
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
22	MAY, SUN	● 8:30 – 9:30am	Choir Practice
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (FH)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)