

*May 22, 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

Spirit Song

Arr. John Carter

Candle lighting

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Hear and believe the good news:  
God has called us "my people"!

**People: God has set up a covenant, over and over  
again, choosing us even before we can choose,  
faithful even when we are faltering.**

Leader: In the flood, in the wilderness, in exile;  
in certainty and doubt, abundance and scarcity;  
God's promise is true to the thousandth generation.

**People: We see the rainbow, we hear our names,  
we learn the commandments, we look up for our help,  
we know in our hearts:  
we love because God first loved us,  
we follow because God first came to us,  
we can be faithful because God is faithful.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God together.

\*Hymn #667 When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song through all the ages long:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

#### Call to Confession

Leader: Let us approach God with our desire to grow in holiness and become more Christ-like in our living. We pray together that God would help us with the following struggle:

#### Prayer of Confession (**unison**)

**O God of all life, we confess that in our attempt to distinguish between who we are and who we are not, we become too comfortable assigning the label “enemy”. We draw a line that becomes hard to erase. Once we claim someone as our enemy, we get caught in the sin of dehumanizing thoughts. They are no longer a person first, but an object of scorn. We fall into the same behaviors we have judged them for.**

**When You teach us to love our enemy, You insist first and foremost that we remember their humanity. We need not love in the usual sense of the word, with warmth; but You do ask us to see them as someone You love and You desire to transform, like we are seeking transformation now. It is easier said than done, and so we come before you looking for strength to overcome these instincts. Amen.**

#### Moment of Silent Reflection

#### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God's truth remains eternal: created in the divine image, we have intrinsic value, a value not associated with our doing, but with our being. Because we live, God show us respect and dignity, treating us with grace and mercy. Even on our worst day, God honors our humanity. Know your worth as a child of God, and in faith be assured of your forgiveness, for nothing can stand in the way of God's love for you.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Proverbs 24:17-20

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

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Hymn #300 We Are One in the Spirit

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

***Refrain***

**And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

***Refrain***

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;  
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,  
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:

***Refrain***

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

***Refrain***

Second Scripture Lesson Acts 9:10-22

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

Sermon "God Acts: The Enemy Loved"

Offering

Offertory The Lord's Prayer Albert Malotte

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn          Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us

Christ, your words of love confound us, even as we give you praise,  
for the lessons that you teach us seem so far from this world's ways.  
How can we love those who hate us? How can we love enemies?  
What of people who abuse us? How can we love even these?

Make us mindful: love is action, not a feeling that uplifts.  
In each daily situation, love's the greatest of all gifts.  
It's the wiser, stronger person who will break the chain of hate.  
Love can usher in redemption; love can make a people great.

Faced with those who seek to hurt us, make us confident and free:  
you don't call us to be helpless but to stand with dignity.  
Lord, when others are demanding, may we know they matter more  
than our money or possessions. May we share, not keeping score.

If we love just those who love us, where's the giving? Where's the grace?  
Even sinners try to do this; they have friends that they embrace.  
May we do, Lord, unto others as we'd have them also do. You have  
shown us: Love is action. May we love, and make things new.

\*Benediction

Postlude                  How Great Thou Art                  Arr. John Carter

**Worship Leaders**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Liturgist:       | Elder Patricia Apy                       |
| Ushers:          | Team B                                   |
| Zoom Host:       | Jim Wright                               |
| Hymn Leadership: | Sean Starke, Bing and Barbara Prestridge |
| Organ and Piano: | Marcello Velame                          |
| Soloist:         | Robert McGary                            |
| Video Editing:   | Rich Vodhanel                            |
| Coffee Hour:     | Christian Ed. Committee                  |

The Chancel Flowers today are given by Jane and Al Wagner,  
in celebration of their 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**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](mailto:kayhw@comcast.net)), May Truxal ([maytruxal@verizon.net](mailto:maytruxal@verizon.net)), or Nancy Vodhanel ([nvodhanel@gmail.com](mailto: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.***

## **Announcements and Upcoming Events**

### **JOIN THE CONVERSATION - MAY 25, 2022, 6:00 PM**

Talking about difficult subjects like racism is far better than not, and a first step toward understanding both racism and - anti-racism.

By now you have received the invitation to join the conversation (second in our series of three) and hopefully, can attend. Kindly notify the Church Office (or email me - [chickazeze@aol.com](mailto:chickazeze@aol.com)) so we can plan accordingly. The same is true if you have any questions.

**Sanctuary A/V Installation:** we are closing in on the installation date – coming soon! We hope you will consider making a contribution to support our commitment be able to welcome worshipers via Zoom in the sanctuary. Label any contributions “A/V Project”.

**Choir:** June 4<sup>th</sup> will be our last Sunday before we break for the summer.

**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, **and now on our website**, or you can email [pcas@verizon.com](mailto:pcas@verizon.com) or call the office (732 747 3557).