

# Service for the Public Worship of God

**Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ May 17, 2009**  
**Eleven O'clock, A.M.**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson

Guest Organist: Mary Ann Zeigler

Liturgist: Nancy Blewett

**THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN**

THE PRELUDE *Air in F* Gounod  
*A song of faith* Mueller

THE CHORAL INTROIT *Hail Thee, Festival Day!* R. Vaughan Williams

\*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 473 *For the Beauty of the Earth* DIX

\*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

THE PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

**Dear God, for the day you have given us, with all its pleasures and possibilities, we thank you. For your gifts of life and love and family, of labor and rest, of silence and speech and song, we praise your holy name.**

**Forgive us that too often we are ungrateful, though your goodness surrounds us; that we feel alone when there are many around us who care; that we despair when your strength is near at hand.**

**Tear down the walls that isolate us from others, make strong the ties that bind us, and help us to walk together in your ways, that we might be reconciled to you and to one another through the grace of our risen Lord Jesus and the power of your Holy Spirit.**

A TIME FOR PRIVATE CONFESSION (in silence)

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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

\*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

-- From a Creed used at Grace Covenant  
Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO

**In Christ we are given a glimpse of the new creation  
which God has begun and will surely finish.  
We do not know when that final day will come.**

**In our time we see only broken and scattered signs  
that the renewal of all things is under way;  
Yet in faith we proclaim the Lord is risen!**

**In our time we do not yet see  
the end of cruelty and suffering in the world,  
the church, or our own lives;  
Yet in faith we proclaim the Lord is risen!**

**As he stands at the center of our history,  
we are confident Jesus Christ will stand at its end.  
Evil will be condemned.  
There will be no more tears and pain.  
All things will be made new, for the Lord is risen.**

**He is risen indeed!**

#### THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Kindly pass your Prayer Requests to the center aisle so they may be  
collected and forwarded to the Prayer Cordon for special attention.*

#### THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

#### THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* Donald Fishel

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 98: 1-9 (*Pew Bible p. 529*)

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE ANTHEM *Beautiful Saviour* arr. Wallingford Riegger

THE EPISTLE READING 1 John 5: 1-6 (*Pew Bible p. 224*)

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

All: **Praise be to you, O Lord.**

\*THE GOSPEL READING John 15: 9-17 (*Pew Bible p. 104*)

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: **Glory to You, O Christ.**

\*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE 111 (*vs. 3, 4 only*)

*Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!* GELOBT SEI GOTT

**Praise we in songs of victory  
That love, that life which cannot die,**

**And sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE SERMON                    *"FRUIT THAT WILL LAST"*                    Dr. Swanson

\*THE PASTORAL PRAYER

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts" and "debtors")

THE CHORAL RESPONSE                    *Six Fold Amen*                    Robert Lau

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY                    *A closer walk*                    Jordan

\*THE DOXOLOGY

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

\*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Almighty God, who in the resurrection of Jesus Christ has given us victory, we yield our lives and our substance to you. Consecrate these tithes and offerings and empower us through the ministries you have given, to work so that your Kingdom is established and Christ's triumph is proclaimed. Amen.**

\*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 276    *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*    FAITHFULNESS

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*                    Peter C. Lutkin

\*THE TIME OF SILENCE

\*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor:    May the God of hope go with us every day,  
              filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

People:    **May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
              bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

Pastor:    Praying, let us work for peace;

People:    **Singing, share our joy with all.**

Pastor: Working, for a world that's new;  
People: **Faithful, when we hear Christ's call.**  
Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!  
People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE POSTLUDE

*Postlude on "Old 124<sup>th</sup>"*

Blake

\* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND\*

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**YOU WERE GREETED TODAY** by Nancy and David Blewett

WELCOME! GRACE AND PEACE TO ALL!

*We are pleased to have you with us if you are visiting today! Kindly indicate your attendance by signing one of the cards in the pew rack, and introduce yourself to others sitting nearby.*

*Do join us for Fellowship Time immediately following worship each Sunday in the Assembly Room downstairs. Exit at the rear of the Sanctuary to take the stairs, or at the front to take the elevator to the lower level. The Assembly Room is near the small kitchen.*



**THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY** are provided by Orville & Edna Nicholas in loving memory of "Our Parents and Jeff and Amy Laidlaw."

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** - Everyone is cordially invited to attend today's Fellowship Hour which immediately follows this worship service downstairs in the Assembly Room. Hosting today's Fellowship Hour is Mary Lee Marten.

**THANKS TO OUR GUEST ORGANIST TODAY!** We thank Mary Ann Zeigler who is serving as guest organist this morning. Mary Ann is the Co-Organist at the First English Lutheran Church, and she shares a spiritual connectedness to Covenant Church dating back decades ago. The paternal side of her family were longtime members, baptized and married at Covenant Church (then known as First Presbyterian). It's wonderful to have you back on the organ bench again, Mary Ann. We love having you with us!

*Committee Meetings this week . . .*

Administration & Stewardship - Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm (Connell)

Session - Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm (Assembly Room)

## *"Spirit of Christ" Mural*

*By Artist Gregory Stokes*

Artist Gregory Stokes has been commissioned by Covenant Church to design an oil painting for Pentecost Sunday. The "Spirit of Christ" Mural will be dedicated during the 11 a.m. worship service on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st. Greg's painting will incorporate an image of Jesus Christ with the changing architecture of Covenant Church from its inception to present day. The mural measures 36 inches by 48 inches and is the largest one Mr. Stokes has undertaken since those he painted during his military days.

*The Spirit of Christ mural promises to be inspiring and spectacular, and we hope you can be with us on Pentecost Sunday to experience its power and presence.*

*\*The mural's new home will be in Sarver Hall adjacent to Mr. Stoke's oil painting of the Church Steeple.*

## *In The Life of Our Church*

### *Prayer Concerns:*

- John Towns . . . . . At home now, receiving TLC from Jo and daily care from visiting nurses
- Ellie Walchesky . . . . . Will require another surgery (scheduled this Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at Allegheny General) to correct a problem with her artificial knee
- Rev. Wayne Bell . . . . . Home from the hospital and in good spirits; remember him in your prayers as he undergoes more chemo-therapy  
(Pastor of West Sunbury Presbyterian Ch.)

*For Continued Prayer:* Julie & Bud Bruno; Marion Campbell;  
Marian Curran; Joan Moore; Eleanor Ritts; Gladys Strobel; Bill Wilson

### *Births:*

Riley Grace Patterson, born May 8, 2009, is the daughter of Ryan and Kristin Patterson; granddaughter of Pam Patterson (congratulations to Pam, a first-time grandmother!); and great-granddaughter of Joan Moore. We are happy to share Ryan and Kristin's joy at the birth of their first child. God has blessed Riley Grace, a healthy 7 lbs. 1 oz. baby girl, with loving parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. May God continue to shower blessings on her and may those that love her nurture, guide and protect her as she grows. Congratulations to the families.

# Pentecost Sunday

**May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

*“A Day of Blessing and Dedication”*

**11:00 am**

**Indoor Worship Service** (*Sanctuary*)  
**Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper (seated)**  
**“Spirit of Christ” Mural by Artist Gregory Stokes**  
(Unveiling & Dedication)

**12:05 pm**

**Salad & Dessert Luncheon** (*Assembly Room*)  
**Apportionment Offering received**



*“A Day of Commitment and Celebration”*

**The Apportionment Offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st during the Salad & Dessert Luncheon in the Assembly Room.**

Each year all Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations are reminded of their obligation to support the work of their local presbytery, synod and General Assembly by paying a per-person apportionment—our *fair share* of the cost of ministries beyond our walls.

The 2009 per capita assessment is **\$25 for each person on the Active Roll of Membership at Covenant Church**. A remittance envelope will be available in the Chronicle (mailed out sometime this week). If you are unable to be with us on Pentecost, you may mail your apportionment offering to the church, drop it off at the office or place it on the offering plate during worship on any Sunday morning.

## ***Salad & Dessert Luncheon***

The luncheon will be held in the Assembly Room following the 11 a.m. Pentecost Worship Service on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Fellowship & Outreach Committee will provide the rolls, butter and beverages. Members are asked to please bring:



**Salad** - if your last name begins **A - L**  
**Dessert** - if your last name begins **M - Z**

***Please bring your family & Invite your Neighbors!***

## *While Bev is away for one more week... Looking ahead:*

We are happy to announce the return of a friend to our worship service. Mr. David C. Daugherty, who is in the area visiting relatives and friends, will be our guest organist for the 11:00 a.m. worship service next Sunday, May 24th. David served as Covenant Church's Organist & Director of Music from September, 1996 to September, 2001. Currently, David is the Music Director at the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown, Philadelphia, PA.



**It's getting to be that time of year...**

**Our Sunday Worship Time  
Moves to 10:00 am  
beginning June 7 (Trinity Sunday)**

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### **“Love Involves Doing”**

In today's gospel reading from John, chapter 15, the word “love” occurs eight times in just eight verses! Of particular interest is Jesus' advice that his followers “love one another” (vv. 12, 17) “as I love you” (v. 12). How did our Mediterranean ancestors in the faith understand this word?

Generally speaking, “being” is the primary preference in the Middle Eastern value system. This means that they generally act spontaneously in response to the stimulus of the moment, like children in the market place who should respond immediately to cues to dance or mourn (Matt 11:16-17). In this same value system, “doing” (that is, “calculated and planned activity”) is of secondary importance.

In today's gospel, however, Jesus urges the disciples to “keep [= do] my commandments” (v. 10) and “do what I command you” (v. 14). A survey of any of the Gospels reveals that he repeats this exhortation rather frequently.

For males in the Mediterranean world, the values that regulate activity are first “being” -- *then* “doing.” For females, the order is just reversed: “doing,” then “being.” In his ministry, Jesus sought to invert the order of these values according to the needs of the moment. Martha, who was quite appropriately “doing” at dinnertime, was directed to imitate Mary's “being” instead (Luke 10:38-42). Here in John 15, Jesus says “being” (love-attachment to him and the Father) is not enough. His followers must strive to “do” (keep the commandments; do what he commands).

Throughout the Hebrew Bible, the prophets had to prod Israel to similar behavior. The nation believed that simply “being chosen” by God was enough. This conferred honorable status. But each and every prophet went further: they challenged the people to DO something – “keep” the covenant, “obey” the commandments, and “perform deeds of justice and charity” because this was what God desired. It is what God desires for us, yet today!

*--- John J. Pilch of Georgetown University*



**May 17, 2009**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
Enter every trembling heart.

*--Charles Wesley, 1707-1788*

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***The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor***

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