

MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Leading in Worship: Rev. Rick Oppelt and Pat Smith

May 5, 2024

In Person and Facebook Live

10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Gathering Music:	<i>Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God</i>	Rev. Rick Oppelt
Words of Welcome		Liturgist
Call to Worship (responsive):	from 'A Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)	Liturgist
One:	In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.	
All:	Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.	
One:	Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.	
All:	Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home. GOD IS FAITHFUL STILL!	
Opening Hymn # 637:	<i>O Sing to the Lord</i> <i>O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song. [3x]</i> <i>O sing to our God; O sing to our God.</i> <i>For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders. [3x]</i> <i>O sing to our God; O sing to our God.</i> <i>So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets. [3x]</i> <i>O sing to our God; O sing to our God.</i> <i>O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit. [3x]</i> <i>O sing to our God; O sing to our God.</i> <i>For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia! [3x]</i> <i>O sing to our God; O sing to our God.</i>	
Call to Confession		Liturgist
Prayer of Confession (unison):	Almighty God, to whom all thoughts are open; all desires, known; and from whom no secrets are hidden; 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. [moment for silent prayer]	
Words of Forgiveness		
Response:	<i>Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me</i>	Hymn # 582
	<i>Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.</i>	
Prayer for Illumination		Liturgist
First Reading:	Luke 24:44-53	Page 111, NT
	One: The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, O Christ!	
Special Music:	<i>Ain't No Grave</i>	Rev. Rick Oppelt -Traditional
Second Reading:	Acts 1:1-11	Page 143, NT
	One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.	
Message:	<i>In His Steps</i>	Rev. Rick Oppelt

Responding to the Word

Hymn of Response # 702:

Christ Be Beside Me

*Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.*

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.

Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me.

Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

Invitation to Live Generously: *The offering basket is near the back door of the sanctuary.*

You may also give online at www.merrittislandpc.org

Response:

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

Communion Hymn # 507:

Come to the Table of Grace

*Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.*

*Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.*

*Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.*

*Come to the table of hope. Come to the table of hope.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of hope.*

*Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

One: The Lord be with you.

All: ...and also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts

All: ...we lift them to the Lord.

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

All: ...It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray...

Words of Institution/Distribution of the Elements

The Lord's Prayer (**unison**)

Closing Hymn # 721:

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

*Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.*

Chorus: *O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me. By your side I will seek other seas.*

*You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor. (chorus)*

*You need my hands, full of caring, through my labors to give others rest
and constant love that keeps on loving. (chorus)*

*You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me: (chorus)*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Ushers: Frances Fernald, June Hutchinson, Marsha Strickland
Attendance Last Week: In Person: 56, On Line: 16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today, whether you are here in person or online! We gather together as a church family, from wherever we may be. If you would like to know more about MIPC, how you can be more involved, or to speak to the pastor, please contact the church office at the number/email below.

Welcome and thank you to Rev. Rick Oppelt for being with us today, while Pastor Christina and Dale are on vacation. Rev. Rick retired at the end of 2020 after 36 years as a Presbyterian Church (USA) pastor. He has served churches in CA, CT, PA and NJ, where he had served the previous 27 years. Warmer weather, lower property taxes and family in the area have brought them to the Sunshine State. Rick and wife Jo have three grown children and four grandchildren. Rick enjoys reading, going to the movies, playing ukulele with musical friends, and rooting for the Green Bay Packers. Rick and Jo live in Rockledge with their two cats Lilly and Callie. We thank him for being with us today and sharing his musical gifts!

Worshiping with Children: We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us, and we pray that your family feels welcome and at home here at MIPC. Children's Church is available for Preschool-6th grade in our Activities Room, right after the first hymn.

Nursery Care: If you have infants or toddlers that need care during our worship service, we can help. Please ask one of our Ushers and they will direct you to someone.

One Purpose Productions' final performance of *Friends Forever* is this afternoon at 4 PM in the Fellowship Hall. If you haven't seen it yet, now is your chance to catch these wonderful young performers!

Ways to Serve

Faith Formation Ministries: Here are 2 ways you can be of service to our ministry:

1. Vacation Bible School: July 15th- 19th, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: We are in need of volunteers to help with many different aspects of this program (Snacks, games, crafts, activity stations, transporting kids to various stations). If you love to work with children, and are looking for a fun summer activity please come and join us. Interested in helping, please contact Pam Poland or Karri Fjeldheim. There is also a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex.
2. Men's Bible Study: There has been some interest expressed regarding forming a men's Bible study group. We are in need of people to lead the study, and participants. Please contact Pam Poland or Karri Fjeldheim if you are interested in helping to start this new program. There is also a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex.

Ways to Connect

Adult Faith Enrichment Class: Join us for Adult Faith Formation at 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room or on Zoom. Our new study is *Journey of Faith* with Milt Seapker. All are welcome at any time! The Zoom link is emailed weekly.

Join us for coffee and snacks in the Narthex after worship today. Thank you, Anne Cole, for providing today's goodies! There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for anyone who would like to bring food one week.

Women's Ministry: Fabulous Fridays! Come and join us in the Activities Room every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m. for our Women's Bible Study Group. (Our next gathering is May 17.) Our study is titled "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts." For more information and questions: cj2hill@bellsouth.net or 321-431-5333.

Church Directory: We have set the date of June 1 to print a new official MIPC directory! There are interim directory copies in the Narthex; please check to make sure your contact information is correct, and contact the church office if there are any changes. There will be opportunities for new individual and family photos if you would like your picture updated - but you can also email the church office with a photo of you/your family that you would like us to use. (mipresbyterian@gmail.com)

Celebrations & Concerns

Our Prayers are with:* Cindy Bottomley, Dot Corbett, Carolyn Crockett, Andre Koodie, Elaine Krieger, Janet Post, Kelly Shephard, George Wilcox, and Bob Willett. (The Larkin family thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers for Rich during his recent hospital stay. He is home and feeling fine.)

** Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested. If you would like your prayer concern to be shared on our Prayer Chain Email (or if you'd like to be on the email distribution list), contact Jill Franklin at mipcprayerchain600@gmail.com, or make a note on the Prayer Request card in the pew.*

Thank you, Rev. Rick Oppelt, Jeana Lutz, and Leslie Mitchell for the beautiful music today!

THIS WEEK AT MIPC:

Monday, May 6, 11:15 AM:	Staff Meeting
Monday, May 6, 6:00 PM:	Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, May 7, 8:00 PM:	AA, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, May 8, 10:00 AM:	Heavenly Handmade, Activities Room
Wednesday, May 8, 11:00 AM:	Preschool Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
Wednesday, May 8, 3:30 PM:	One Purpose cast party, Fellowship Hall
Thursday, May 9, 7:00 PM	Presbyterian Women Study, Zoom
Friday, May 10, 9:30 AM:	Preschool "Muffins for Mom," Fellowship Hall
Friday, May 10, 6:00 PM	Girl Scout overnight "camp"
Sunday, May 12, 9:00 AM:	Adult Faith Formation, Session Room/Zoom
Sunday, May 12, 10:00 AM:	Worship Service (in person or Facebook Live) - 5 Cents Per Meal
Sunday, May 12, 11:00 AM	Christ The King worship, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, May 12, 3:00 PM	Girl Scouts, Activities Room

For more information on any of these events, check with the church office.

Rev. Christina Greenawalt, Pastor

Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries
Leslie Mitchell, Financial Secretary
Mary Lou Tipton, Director of Performing Arts
James Neihouse, Live Feed Director/Producer
www.merrittislandpc.org

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Tammy Lewis, Preschool Director
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