

For Young
Worshippers:
If you walk in front
of the church, lie
on the sidewalk and
look up, this is
what you will see!
I wonder why the
steeple is so tall.
What is the church
reaching for?
Any ideas?



The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green

Service for the Lord's Day

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2017

Gathering Around the Word

Gathering Music

Striking of the Hour

Welcome

Prelude

Agincourt Hymn

John Dunstable

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to God; sing to God's glory!

For we see what God has done.

Blessed be almighty God, who raised Jesus from the dead.

The great God of resurrection will not reject our prayers, nor remove his steadfast love from us.

Part of living in a
world where
resurrection has
happened is that
now we know: God
will do *whatever it
takes* to help us and
rescue us.

This hymn is a paraphrase of Psalm 66.

All Stand
Hymn 54

Make a Joyful Noise to God!
All Three Verses

DIX

*Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sing your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.*

*Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the just:
walked the chosen through the sea, brought their enemies to dust.
Let us lift a thankful voice for God's mercies, and rejoice!*

*Bless the Lord, our refuge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!
By whose justice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt deferred.
When our life's sure end shall come, bring us to your heavenly home.*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Living God, Lord of Life and Giver of Resurrection, we confess that our hopes are too small! We know that Jesus was raised, that his tomb is empty, and that new life is promised in the resurrection miracle; but we do not accept the promise. You made the earth and sky; but our worship often fails to reflect your majestic grandeur. You send your Holy Spirit to guide us; but we think we can find our own way. Forgive us now! Give us new life! Renew the promise of our baptism and let us receive what even death cannot destroy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A Silence is observed for Personal Confession

Declaration of Good News

Hymn 258

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!
A hymn of glo-ry let us sing!
New songs through-out the world shall ring:
Christ, by a road be-fore un-trod,
as-cends un-to the throne of God.*

DEO GRACIAS

Time with Young Disciples

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter

We Trust in God for Deliverance

Psalm 66:8-20
With Responses

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip. **Didn't God keep us on the road of the living? Didn't God keep us from falling?**

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. **As silver is made pure by a refining fire.**

You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place. **You have made certain that we were "tried and true."**

I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. **I will do what worshipers do, giving thanks for all I now have!** *(continued)*

The glory of God changes our inglorious lives into a new creation, so we can live in new ways.

Psalm 66 is a very personal response to God's steadfast love. Praise for God's greatness is linked to thanksgiving.

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. **Listen to this!** I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. **My crying has turned. Now I am shouting for joy.**

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. **God does not reward coziness with evil.**

But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. **I have been heard!** Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me. **God's steadfast love is truly steadfast.**

Anthem

The Gift of Love

American Folk Tune/arr. Hal Hopson

DiDi Turley, mezzo-soprano

Sam Tuggle, baritone

Reading from Acts

Acts 17:22-32

The Apostle Paul Preaches to Seekers in Athens

Paul stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead." When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

Paul offers a very sophisticated message here. He uses the words of Greek philosophers and poets, which were familiar to his Greek listeners, while still managing to uphold the distinctly Christian ideas of Christ's resurrection and his merciful judgment.

Sermon

Doors and Windows Open

Matthew Covington

Response Hymn 282

Come Down, O Love Divine
All Verses

DOWN AMPNEY

*Come down, O Love divine, seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing; O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear, and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.*

*O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming; and let your glorious light
shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.*

*And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far surpass the power of human telling; for none can guess God's grace,
till Love creates a place wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

Responding to the Word

The resurrection of Jesus is understood as a decisive event, vindicating God's purposes. Jesus is to be forever understood as the complete revelation of all God intends to do: saving, loving, and lifting up God's own.

Affirmation of Faith

A Declaration of Faith 4.4

We believe that in the death of Jesus on the cross God achieved and demonstrated once for all the costly forgiveness of our sins. Jesus Christ is the Reconciler between God and the world. He acted on behalf of sinners as one of us, accepting God's condemnation of our sinfulness. In his lonely agony on the cross Jesus felt forsaken by God and thus experienced hell itself for us. Yet the Son was never more in accord with the Father's will. He was acting on behalf of God, manifesting the Father's love that takes on itself the loneliness, pain, and death that results from our waywardness. In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not holding our sins against us. Each of us beholds on the cross the Savior who died in our place, so that we might no longer live for ourselves but for him. In him is our only hope of salvation.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Statement About Stewardship

Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World

Closing Hymn 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
First and Last Verses Only

HYFRYDOL

*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.

Finish, then, thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

Benediction

Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory

David Cherwien

*WELCOME VISITORS! Even as we worship online, we are glad you are with us! For more information about our church, pastoral help or for prayer requests, please email our church office.
www.bgpres.org*

The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101
270-843-4707 • www.bgpres.org

Our church Elders: Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Pam Bratcher, Mary Evans, Mike Kanan, John Kernohan, Jean Harris, Wayne Hendrix, Tim Leigh, Nathan Love, Nancy Moore, Mike Morse, Pamela Napier, Bud Schlinker, and David Sears. Our church Deacons: Angie Alexieff, Rider Allen, Rob Byrd, Sally Calkins, Judy Clark, Shannon Dyche, Ray Elms, Kim Ferguson, Kathleen Gildersleeve, Cathey Green, Linda Leigh, Debbie Morse, David Muffett, Annette Parkerson, Teri Polen, Charlotte Prow, Ken Royse, Susan Thomison and Judy Whitson.

Donate Online:

The church website accepts online donations. Just go to our website (below) and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You can also scan the QR code, right.

<https://bgpres.org/give>



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Announcements

MEDIA PERSONNEL: David Clarke
LIBRARIAN: Arnie Petrus, arfranpe@msn.com

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY, May 24: Acts 1:6–14; Psalm 68: 1–10, 32–35; 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11; John 17:1–11.

TODAY:
DEACONS OF THE WEEK this week are Sally Calkins and Ray Elms.. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

THE BIBLE IN KAHOTS! 1:00pm today all children can join Mary Evans & co for a fun time of visiting and Bible stories and fun. Need the zoom link? Email Leslee or Mary. Participants will need to have a smart phone handy for the fun part!

PARADE OF STARS! Today beginning at 3:00pm a number of folk are gathering in their cars to 'drive by' some of our members to share our love even while apart. If you wish to be part of the fun, be at the church by 2:45pm (please **DO NOT** get out of your car) so we can get organized. We will go to a number of our members' homes to drive by with signs, honks, waves and more. We don't anticipate this will be a one time event! Questions? Email Shannon Dyche.

Calendar

Sunday, May 17

8:30 a.m. Shalom/Fellowship (Zoom)
10:30 a.m. Worship
Livestream only

Monday, May 18

5:00 p.m. Round Table Pulpit (Zoom)
2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, May 19

11:00 a.m. Finance Ministry (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. Session (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 20

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Fun / Kids
(Zoom)

NOTE: We are looking to include the pictures/selfies you have sent worshipping at home in a video that will play before the service starts each week. If you would prefer **not** to be included in this video, please contact David Clarke to let him know before May 21st.

YOUTH GROUP Although our Youth graduate Sunday has been put on hold, we still want to find a way to honour your youth. If you could, please send David the details of where your student is graduating from and their plans for the immediate future so we can work on ways to celebrate them.

COMING UP:

ROUND TABLE PULPIT is meeting via Zoom, each Monday at 5:00pm. Contact the office for the information to log in.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY will meet via Zoom, tomorrow evening, 7:00pm. If you need the log-in information, contact [Leslee](#).

NEED TO MEET? If your group (PW circle, committee/ministry) needs to meet, contact the office to get a zoom date. Meetings cannot overlap, so please call the office to get scheduled.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will happen this year, but not at Christ Episcopal Church and not in person. We are working on two virtual events to be available on two Sunday afternoons in June. More details as available, but stay tuned! Registration will be available soon, and we will need that so families get the necessary information for our events. We have pushed back our 'debut' a bit later as the publisher of our materials is working on some help for doing their materials virtually. **IT WILL STILL HAPPEN**, so stay tuned!

OTHER NEWS:

MASKS Hopefully you aren't going out much, but when you do, you need a mask! We have folk in our congregation making cloth masks, so [email](#) us. Masks need to be part of our daily wear for many months yet. And when we do decide it is safe enough for some to come back to the church to worship, masks will be required!



We extend our sympathy to Melinda Fry and Meg Webb and their families, for the death of church member David Coverdale, who died May 12, 2020.