



May 14, 2023, 11:15 am

+Stand as you are able

Bold type--everyone reads

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Centering Music

+Call to Worship

L: Look for God in this place.

P: We search for God's love and peace.

L: It is here, given for you out of God's absolute love for you.

P: Lord, help us receive that love and then to bring it to others.

Let us pray: **Lord of wondrous light and power, we come to you this day to learn of your will for our lives. Heal our wounds; lift our spirits; give us courage and confidence to boldly serve you in all that we do. Amen.**

+Hymn *Holy God, We Praise Your Name #4*

Prayers of Confession and Forgiveness

As God's beloved children, we are invited to come to our God with the fullness of our lives, to admit our love and our hate, to admit our faith and our fear. Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession:

Maker and giver of all, forgive us when we are too preoccupied to notice your presence in our lives:

when we walk through this world and fail to see the wonder of you upholding our lives and all creation;

when we walk through our lives and fail to see you abiding with, within, and around us;

when we walk through holy moments and fail to savor your presence,

instead feeling abandoned in the vast sweep of life as each day rushes at us with its demands.

Open our eyes to your presence, God of love, that we may lean on you—

for you uphold all of creation in tenderness and power. Amen.

When Jesus left the disciples, he gave us a promise: "I will not leave you orphaned!"

For we, his disciples, live in him and he in us— the presence of God within and around all.

What a promise! Take courage! Take comfort! Blessed be God!

Amen.

Response of Praise *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks! (refrain only) 3x*

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the living Lord; Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to God's name!

Passing of the Peace

Because Jesus Christ is in us, and we in him, his peace is a powerful gift that we may share with others. Pass the blessing of this peace to your brothers and sisters in Christ and to all the children of God.

Anthem

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

With open minds and hearts we are here God. We are here to pray and sing and feel your presence; but we are also here to listen to your word and find guidance for our lives there. Tell us your story, Holy One, as well as the wisdom to follow you way. Amen.

Scripture Reading Acts 17:22-29 ²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* #366

Gospel Reading John 14:15-21 ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

The Way we follow is the way of humanity and divinity coming together in Christ, to give us a framework for living in community with others. We believe that God's love is available to all; that Jesus' life shows us a road to follow; and that the Spirit is with us, guiding and directing us on that road.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, your grace that has sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne with us, and your love that has redeemed us. Help us to love you, and to be thankful for all your gifts by serving you and delighting to do your will. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

For the church, the world, and all in need, let us pray to the Lord, saying Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

For your Church in every place, that we may worship and serve you faithfully . . .

For leaders and people in every land, that they may know your way and do your will . . .

For justice throughout the world, that there may be peace and plenty for all . . .

For the earth you have made, that it may flourish in beauty and show your glory . . .

For all those who hunger and thirst, that they may be filled with good things . . .

For those who are ill or close to death, that they may know your loving care . . .

(time of silent prayer)

God of mercy, you have promised to hear what we ask in the name of Christ. Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us. Hear us now as we pray the prayer Christ taught to his disciples: ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

Taking the Word into the World

+Song *Arise, Your Light is Come!* #744

+Charge and Benediction

Prayers from MinistryMatters.com and the PCUSA Book of Common Worship

Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 14, 2023 - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Contact

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Scriptures for

Sunday, May 21

Acts 1:6–14

Psalms 68:1–10, 32–35

1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11

John 17:1–11

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy

Ruth Roeber

The McDermott family

Johanna Willis

The Kleier family

Jean Jennings' family

Emilee Walden

Kelly Montana

Lynda Jaeger

Ron Carlin

Ella Grace Marksberry

Worship Services

Join us for in-person services at 710 Western Reserve Rd., Crescent Springs, KY. You can also worship with us online via Facebook Live, or by joining the conference call. Worship services begin at 11:15 am.

Liturgists Needed

Liturgists are needed to help lead worship. Please sign up on the sheet located on the welcome table. Thank you!

Cornerstone Meals

We will also be serving meals to Cornerstone in May. Meals will be prepared on Monday, May 15 and served on Tuesday, May 16. All are welcome to join!