



May 21, 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: Shout to God with songs of great joy!

P: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

L: God has made us whole.

P: God has called us to a ministry of hope and love.

L: Come, let us celebrate the love of God!

P: Let us praise God's name and serve God joyfully.

Let us pray: **Lord of amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your glad tidings of an Advocate. Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think. Amen.**

+Hymn *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above #645*

Prayers of Confession and Forgiveness

God of the get-going, when we stand idly by, forgive, challenge and change us.

When we stand looking the other way, or overlook the needs of sisters and brothers because they are not right in front of us, forgive, challenge and change us.

When we use a microscope to pick someone apart because their ideas and behavior make us uncomfortable, forgive, challenge and change us.

When we look immediately with suspicion, when we look askance and quickly close our minds because of what our eyes see, forgive, challenge and change us.

God of the stay and pray, guide our feet and our hearts home to You. Sit with us, gathering us closer to You and to each other. Garner the ideas that flow and the questions that keep us searching and the love that lives deep within us and help us channel them well.

In all times, in every place, You are with us – and we are forgiven, challenged, changed. Let it be so.

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

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: Peace be with you!

P: And also with you!

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 1:6-11 ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Hymn *Breathe on Me, Breath of God #286*

Gospel John 17:1-11 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

Great and mighty God, we praise you that Christ has ascended to rule at your right hand. We rejoice before the throne of his power and peace, for he has put down tyrannies that would destroy us, and unmasked idols claiming our allegiance. We thank you that he alone is Lord of our lives. By your Spirit, give us freedom to love with his love, and to embrace the world with his compassion. Accept the offering of our lives, time, and finances in response to your loving grace. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

With one mind in Christ, and one heart in the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord of heaven and earth: We pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That churches of all traditions may discover their unity in Christ and exercise their gifts in service of all, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That the earth may be freed from war, famine, and disease, and the air, soil, and waters cleansed of poison, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That those who govern and maintain peace in every land may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That you will strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities so that the races may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That you will preserve all who live and work in this community in peace and safety, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That you will comfort and empower those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

Enable us, O God, by the power of your Spirit, to live our lives in a way that is worthy of the gospel, to the glory of the name that is above all names, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 *Go With Us Lord #748*

+Charge and Benediction

People of COF, why do you stand looking toward heaven?
This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven,
will come in the same way as you saw Him go –
loving, teaching, feeding, forgiving.

So go and find Him.

Go and be (like) Him.

And may the God who called you into being,
call you into the world to be a blessing there. Amen.

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 21, 2023

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Scriptures for Sunday, May 28

Acts 2:1–21 or
Numbers 11:24–30
Psalm 104:24–34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or
Acts 2:1–21
John 20:19–23 or 7:37–39

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!

Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 11. We will be having a lunch meeting after church to discuss the way forward for COF as Rev. Sharon prepares to leave. A guest from the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry will be with us to facilitate the discussion and answer questions. Please do your best to attend this important meeting.

Treasurer Position Opening

The COF session is looking for a new Treasurer. The position of Treasurer is required by the Book of Order, and entails working with our accounting firm to pay bills, manage pledges and offerings, and report to session and the congregation regarding the finances of the congregation. Training will be provided. For further questions or a job description, please contact Rev. Sharon.