



**May 7, 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: We gather as people of the Way to honor our God.

**P: Surely God is here with us and calls us to worship in body and spirit.**

L: God loves us and all people everywhere!

**P: Let us show our love for God, Christ and Spirit as we worship together.**

Let us pray: We are here to be with you God, set apart from the loud and busy world around us. Fill us with your Spirit so that we hear only you. Amen.

**+Hymn** *Gather Us In #401*

### **Prayers of Confession and Forgiveness**

One of the things I love about the prayer of confession is it offers us a new beginning. In the prayer of confession, we lay our cards on the table. We speak honestly with God about who we are and who we long to be. And in response, God wraps us in grace and lets us begin again.

So together, with God's grace, let us wipe the slate clean. Together, with God's grace, let us pray the prayer of confession:\*

**God of Creation, we confess that at times we doubt. At times we are skeptical. At times we look around and what we see isn't good. We don't experience hope or joy, and we wonder when things will ever get better again. Lift us up. Help us to find the good in this world and to hold on. Help us to find the good in each other and to draw it out. Help us to help one another, to make this world a better place, for we know that wherever we are gathered, You are among us, for You dwell in us. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen. (*Moment of silent prayer*)**

Friends, Sometimes it is hard to believe, but God believes in us. God believes in us so much that we were made in God's image, given a sacred charge to care for the earth, and then, God sent the Only Son to us, so that we might know life eternal. Go into the world knowing that whatever your doubts, God believes in you, God trusts in you, and God knows you will do great things in God's name.

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

L: Grace comes to each of us through the one who loves us. May the grace and peace of God be with you all.

P: And also with you.

## Anthem

### Hearing the Word

#### Prayer for Illumination

The Holy Spirit brings us insight and understanding of the sacred word. May we be open to the ideas and their significance of the word we hear today. Amen.

**Scripture Reading** I Peter 2:1-10 (*The Message*) 1-3 So clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful talk. You've had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God. 4-8 Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent:

*Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor. Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it.*

To you who trust him, he's a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him, the stone the workmen threw out is now the chief foundation stone.

For the untrusting it's . . . *a stone to trip over, a boulder blocking the way.* They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted.

9-10 But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

**Hymn** *We Gather Here in Jesus' Name* #510

**Gospel Reading** John 14:1-14 (*The Message*) 1-4 "Don't let this rattle you. You trust God, don't you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I'm on my way to get your room ready, I'll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I'm taking."

5 Thomas said, "Master, we have no idea where you're going. How do you expect us to know the road?"

6-7 Jesus said, "I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him. You've even seen him!"

8 Philip said, "Master, show us the Father; then we'll be content."

9-10 "You've been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don't understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, 'Where is the Father?' Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you aren't mere words. I don't just make them up on my own. The Father who resides in me crafts each word into a divine act.

11-14 “Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can’t believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I’ve been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I’ll do it. That’s how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I’ll do.

## 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.**

#### Offering Prayer

Giver of all good gifts, accept our offerings of money, time and talents that we give in response to your generosity to us. Guide us in the way we share our resources and in the way we use the offerings, for the benefit of our community and the world. Amen.

#### Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

##### Joys and Concerns

##### Invitation to the Table

Imagine a table large enough for us all to sit at. Then imagine the size of that table multiplied millions of times. That is what the table of the Lord looks like—a miraculous table at which we all sit together and we all get to sit next to Jesus. Imagine Jesus passing the bread around, imagine Jesus serving you the wine. Just imagine what that would be like!

##### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy, holy, holy Lord— we praise you for your love: bringing order out of chaos, breathing life into dust, leading captives into freedom, calling wandering children home, giving bread to the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, raising the dead to life.

*All sing: Holy, holy holy, is the Lord of hosts (2x)*

*The whole world is full of God’s glory (3x)*

*Holy is the Lord!*

**Thank you, Lord— we thank you for Jesus: Word made flesh, light of the world, living water, shepherd and gate, way and truth, bread of heaven, cup of salvation, resurrection and life.**

*All sing: Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

Spirit, come— come and live in us: in this bread, in this cup, in your people, one in the body, one in the blood; one with Christ, one in ministry, in this place, in every place; in this world, in the world to come; and even as we pray in your name: **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.**

**Words of Institution****Communion of the People****Prayer after Communion**

God of grace, you invite us to your table and welcome us as part of your family. You feed us with your body and satisfy our deepest hunger. We thank you for these gifts. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Spirit that we may be your witnesses, sharing the life-giving news of the gospel. Amen.

**Taking the Word into the World**

**+Song**    *You Shall Go Out With Joy #80*

**+Charge and Benediction**

*\*Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

*\*\*Prayers from the Rev. Wendi Welton-Mitchell at Rev-o-lution.org*

*Other Prayers from 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 7, 2023

## Contact

Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Carter  
865-385-5003

Choir Director:

Jie Fang Goh

Admin Assistant:

Stephanie Class

P.O. Box 121038

Covington, KY 41012

Office: 859-331-3238

communityoffaith@fuse.net

www.cofnky.org

## Scriptures for

### Sunday, May 14

Acts 17:22–31

Psalm 66:8–20

1 Peter 3:13–22

John 14:15–21

## 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!

## Session Meeting

Session will meet on Thursday, May 11 at 6:45 pm.

## 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!