



**June 18, 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: The Lord is in this Holy Temple, let all the children of God rejoice. We are called as family to hold up holy hands and praise the God of justice and liberation for all! Not some, but for all people regardless of where you are on life's journey or who you are in the Kingdom of God.

L: We are here to worship!

**P: Hallelujah!**

L: We are here to lift up Holy hands!

**P: Hallelujah!**

L: We are the Kingdom of God!

**P: Let us praise the name of the Lord!**

Let us pray: **Gracious and ever-present God, make each of us an instrument of your justice. Continue to weave us into a family, your Kingdom, showing forth your power of healing, feeding, clothing and resurrection as evidenced through the life and ministry of your son Jesus the Christ. Bless us and our differences and sustain our courage to stand together in the face of oppression and injustice in this present world. We call on you today to gather us in your love. Impart to us the knowledge and understanding to better know you and glorify your grace on each and every step of the journey of our lives. In the name of Jesus, who came in the name of love, let us now commit to shout with the voice of triumph and proclaim the love and grace of God to all the world. Amen.**

**+Hymn** *This is My Father's World #370*

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

**Righteous God, we find ourselves as your hands, legs, heart and spirit here in the earth. As your children, as were your disciples, we are called to manifest a Gospel of love, justice, reconciliation and healing in the present world. But our concern for a just and egalitarian world too often dissipates at the point of our discomfort. Forgive us for our humanity and our frailty as we dwell in your presence and seek transformation and new energy for the work of your ministry. Revive us again O Lord.**

L: O Lord Revive... **P: Our love for the Kingdom!**

L: O Lord Revive... **P: Our yearning for justice!**

L: O Lord Revive... **P: Our desire for reconciliation!**

L: O Lord Revive... **P: Our need for healing!**

L: O Lord remind us...**P: that in Christ we are forgiven! Amen**

## **Response of Praise**    *Spirit of the Living God #288*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

## **Passing of the Peace**

**L:** As God has forgives us, let us forgive one another: Peace be with you!

**P:** And also with you!

## **Anthem**

### **Hearing the Word**

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

**In these words may we find wisdom, love, grace, humor and peace; and may we learn more about ourselves and you, O God. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading    Genesis 18:1-15**    The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup>Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

**Hymn**    *To Abraham and Sarah #51*

**Gospel Reading    Matthew 9:35-38, 10:5-14**    <sup>35</sup>Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." ...

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. <sup>9</sup>Take no

gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup>no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. <sup>11</sup>Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup>As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup>If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup>If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.

## Sermon

### Responding to the Word

#### Affirmation of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Holy Spirit comes down to us as a gift of presence, compassion, and companionship. We honor and uphold the Kingdom here on earth through our stewardship; as we are called to present our lives as a living testimony of the God who has created each one of us to be unique and minister to a world that needs what we have to offer in time, talent and treasure. Let us now uphold the glory of God by the giving of our gifts in the spirit of generosity.

L: We give... **P: To meet the needs of the Kingdom!**

L: We give...**P: Out of the generosity of our hearts!**

L: We give...**P: To further justice and peace in our world!**

L: Generous God, may these gifts glorify your spirit and meet the needs of your Kingdom. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

## Joys and Concerns

### Prayers of the People

In the communion of the Holy Spirit, we call on the name of the Lord, saying: By your Spirit, O God, **transform our lives.**

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 . . .

Gracious God, continue to pour out your power in the church, in the world, and in our daily lives, so all will know that you are at work among us; through Jesus Christ, our living 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**    *Together We Serve #767*

### **+Charge and Benediction**

Spirit of all blessing,

be with us

in the ordinariness of our days.

May hope's light guard us and keep cynicism from our hearts.

May the energy of laughter build endurance for the dark times of our lives.

May creativity's vision grant the possibility of seeing old relationships with new eyes.

May the oil of healing keep us

from anger's hardness or despair.

May the mantle of humility give courage to admit when we are wrong.

May compassion's loom weave in us

the discipline to forgive.

May patience help us bear in mind

that ours is not the only scale of time.

May the flame of justice be a beacon for the choices we must make.

May peace be ever in us

and sustain our stressful days.

Spirit of all blessing,

be with us

in the ordinariness of our days.\*

\*Copyright 2015 Maureen Killoran. All rights reserved.

*Prayers from [www.ucc.org/worship-way](http://www.ucc.org/worship-way) 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

## JUNE 18, 2023 - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

### 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, June 25

Genesis 21:8–21  
Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17  
Romans 6:1b–11  
Matthew 10:24–39

### In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy  
Ruth Roeber  
The McDermott family  
Johanna Willis  
The Kleier family  
Jean Jennings' family  
Emille 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!

### 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.