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May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter



**Welcome**

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**All: To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever.**

**Opening Hymn:**

**God of Grace and God of Glory**

(UMH, 577)

*Verse 1*

God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story;  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

*Verse 2*

Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

*Verse 3*

Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

*Verse 4*

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage;  
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

**\*Affirmation of Faith: Apostle’s Creed**

**Pastor:** Brothers and sisters in Christ, what is it that you believe?

**All:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Offering**

**Doxology**

Glory be to the Father  
And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen. Amen.

**Scripture Reading: Acts 15:1-18, New Living Translation**

**1** While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.” **2** Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question. **3** The church sent the delegates to Jerusalem, and they stopped along the way in Phoenicia and Samaria to visit the believers. They told them—much to everyone’s joy—that the Gentiles, too, were being converted.

**4** When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them. **5** But then some of the

believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, “The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses.”

**6** So the apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue. **7** At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows: “Brothers, you all know that God chose me from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe. **8** God knows people’s hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. **9** He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith. **10** So why are you now challenging God by burdening the Gentile believers with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear? **11** We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.”

**12** Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

**13** When they had finished, James stood and said, “Brothers, listen to me. **14** Peter has told you about the time God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people for himself. **15** And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written:

**16’** Afterward I will return and restore the fallen house of David.

I will rebuild its ruins

and restore it,

**17** so that the rest of humanity might seek the Lord,

including the Gentiles—

all those I have called to be mine.

The Lord has spoken—

**18** he who made these things known so long ago.”

**Sermon:**

The Council Has Spoken

Rev. Shannon Blosser

### **Invitation**

**Pastor:** Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### **Confession and Pardon**

**All: Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to the calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant giving in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.**

*A time for personal prayer and reflection.*

**Pastor:** Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**Congregation: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Pastor:** Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

**Pastor:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

**Pastor:** And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray the prayer our Lord taught us to pray:

**Lord's Prayer**

(UMH 894)

**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**

**Communion**

*Today we will take communion from our pews. Please refrain from opening the elements until after instructed by the pastor following the Lord's prayer. We will take the elements together as a congregation.*

**Closing Hymns:**

**One Bread, One Body**

(UMH, 620)

*Refrain*

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

*Verse 1*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more.

*Refrain*

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

Verse 2

Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord of all.

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

Verse 3

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one, for all.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**NEXT WEEK IN WORSHIP:** Galatians 2:15-21

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR:** May 2 – May 8

2 - Nehemiah 1-3

6 - Esther 1-3

3 - Nehemiah 4-7

7 - Esther 4-7

4 - Nehemiah 8-10

8 - Esther 8-10

5 - Nehemiah 11-13

**CONCERNS and PRAYERS**

**SHORT TERM**

Rev. Shannon Blosser and family, Carolyn Jarrell, Bittner Ballard, Jim and Betty Gibbs, Ida and Rob Robinson (friends of Barbara and William Hale), Rev. Dick Vanderpool (Brother of Betty Smith).

**LONG TERM**

Peggy Adkins, Sandy Pullin, Janet Mears, Louise Miller, John Workman, Sharie Blackwell, Carolyn Dilcher, Ken and Lou Morris, Ted Henry, Garry and Nancy Ritchie, Edna Williams, (Village at Riverview), Marcia Anderson, Patty Doss (Chateau Grove), Lonnie Ross (Sue Workman's son-in-law).

**BREAVEMENT**

Charmaine Fonduk and family on the loss of her husband, Gary.  
Karen Alexander and family on the loss of her mother, Mary Johnson  
The Family of Peggy Esslinger

## MINISTRY IN THE LIFE OF PRUMC

May 2 through May 9

**Sunday**      **10:45** Worship (In person and online)  
**Wednesday**    **7:00** Facebook Bible Study  
**Thursday**      **7:00** SPRC Meeting in the Fellowship Hall with Zoom option

Offering Last Week: \$2,945.00

Weekly Budgetary Needs: \$3,935.75

A daily devotional based upon on Scripture readings are available on our Facebook group page each morning. We are also sending them by email for those who are not on Facebook.

### **CELEBRATIONS:**

**Birthdays:** Elizabeth Nance, Rick Hannan

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There will be a church history workday at the church on Saturday, May 22, from 10-12:30 p.m. Please contact Jeanette Rowsey if you are interested in participating and learning more about the church's history.

We are searching for a new administrative assistant. Resumes can be sent to Rev. Shannon Blosser and Joe Daulton by e-mailing the church at [pearidgeumc@outlook.com](mailto:pearidgeumc@outlook.com).

We welcome Emily Cloer as our online ministries intern. She will be working with Rev. Shannon and Alex Lee on our online streaming each week.

Our Facebook Bible Study will continue this Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Pea Ridge United Methodist Church is partnering with the West Virginia Autism Training Center to offer a training seminar on best practices that lead to inclusion for autistic individuals within the church and society. The seminar will be held on May 25 at 7 p.m., and will be led by Bonnie Marquis from the West Virginia Autism Training Center. Due to COVID-19 policies, the seminar will be virtual and conducted via Zoom. Registration for the seminar is available by contacting the church office by May 24. For more information, please contact Rev. Shannon.

### **How To Contact Pastor Shannon**

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You can also follow him on Facebook and Twitter