

TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

829 Salem Road - Union, New Jersey

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Responsively)

In the wilderness, water brings life.

Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

LAY LEADER

OPENING PRAYER

LAY LEADER

Wondrous Vine grower,

you make all things new in water and Word,
feeding your people with love, joy, and peace.

Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings.

Teach us to love what you have commanded

and to prune what does not nourish your creation,
in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN #231 *“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”*

SONG LEADER

1 Christ has risen while earth slumbers;
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!

2 Christ has risen for the people
whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
can't be silenced by the tomb.

3 Christ has risen and for ever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ

* Please stand

CALL TO CONFESSION

LAY LEADER

Trusting in the mercy of God,
let us confess to God and to one another
our failure to love our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

ALL

God of mercy,
we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit.
We have not loved others as you have loved us.
We have denied the promises of baptism
and cut ourselves off from you.
Forgive us, restore us,
that we may abide in your love
and live out your mercy,
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

LAY LEADER

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you.
In baptism God claimed you
and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine.
Believe the promise given to you:
in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

*** GLORIA PATRI**

ALL

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.

THE PEACE

LAY LEADER

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
God brought peace to all creation.
Share this joyous peace with one another.
The Peace of Christ be with you!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PASTOR

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* Please stand

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember

and turn to the LORD;

and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,

and I shall live for him.

SERMON: *“Abide in Me”*

***HYMN #468** *“In My Life”*

1 In my life, Lord,
be glorified; be glorified.
In my life, Lord,
be glorified today.

3 In your church, Lord,
be glorified; be glorified.
In your church, Lord,
be glorified today.

PASTOR

³⁰ Posterity will serve him;

future generations will be told about the Lord,

³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

John 15: 1–8

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.

² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

PASTOR

SONG LEADER

2 In our song, Lord,
be glorified; be glorified.
In our song, Lord,
be glorified today.

4 In your world, Lord,
be glorified; be glorified.
In your world, Lord,
be glorified today.

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* Please stand

JOYS AND CONCERNS, A TIME OF SHARING

PASTOR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PASTOR

(Responsively)

Let us join with all creation in praying for the good of the earth, saying,
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit
whose work at creation continues in us.
Through Christ Jesus you have shown your love for this earth you made.
We pray that all the world may know your power and goodness;
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

Word of life, reveal the wonder of your world to all people.
Show us anew what lives around us, over us, beneath us, within us.
Enliven the church with your Spirit,
that we may honor your earth with responsible care.
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, uphold our sisters and brothers
who endure disasters
caused by weather, war, famine, sickness, or greed.
Strengthen all who are in peril,
especially the people of [name places of concern].
You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

Giver of all good things, bring trust and sympathy
to the nations of the world.
Let peacemakers reign wherever there is conflict.
Give wisdom to leaders and hope to the poor.
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

Good healer, we pray for all who are in need of comfort.
Comfort those who mourn;
uphold those who are sick, or holding vigil,
or awaiting words of hope,
especially those we name now silently or aloud.
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your mercy, we commend to you all those we have named
and those whose needs are known only to you.

Praying as your Son taught us to pray...

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

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* Please stand

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

LAY LEADER

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning—
letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves—
to extend the gospel witness into the world.
Be generous in your ministry of giving.
You need not fear; you abide in the vine.

*** OFFERTORY RESPONSE: HYMN #606**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

LAY LEADER

Through our offerings, O God,
give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort.
Make our many gifts one offering for the world;
in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PASTOR

Jesus met his disciples—women and men, young and old—
and invited them into his new life.
Jesus still meets his disciples—women and men, young and old—
and invites us into his new life.
At this table, we receive the bread of new life.
At this table, we are called together from many individuals into one body.
At this table, we are strengthened to go answer Christ's call.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Responsively*)

PASTOR

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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* Please stand

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.

In every time and every age, O God,
it is good and faithful that we give you thanks,
for your mercy is sure and your steadfast love endures forever.

In your compassion you gave us Christ Jesus,
who frees us from darkness
and lights our path to endless renewal and life eternal.

And so, with all of creation,
with all the needy and hungry ones,
with all those who have enough and plenty,
with creatures large and small,
with sun and moon and stars,
and with the saints of every age,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

Blessed are you, O God, creator of all things.

By your power and love you continue
to deliver your people from bondage,
thwart the designs of evil,
show the way through the wilderness,
turn hardship into righteousness,
and reveal your hand upholding the just.

Blessed are you, O Christ, servant of the universe.

You came among us to feed and heal and teach,
to confound the haughty,
to confuse the tricksters,
to challenge the wrong-hearted,
and, in all these things,
to give hope to those who long for peace.

We remember that on the night he was betrayed,
having gathered his friends at the table,

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* Please stand

our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

And again, after supper, he took the cup
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering our Lord's self-giving love,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Blessed are you, O Spirit, giver of life.
You give us words when we have none;
you fill us with vision when we have the most need;
you give us voice to proclaim our faith in every hour.
Be our guide and teacher, today and always.

Come now, O Prince of Peace,
Spirit of Love,
Breath of Life.
Bring to all this hurting world the joy that Mary knew,
and teach us to proclaim with her,
"I have seen the Lord!"

In the unity of the Holy Trinity,
in gratitude for this great day of resurrection,
we praise you, God of all that is,
now and forever. **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

ELDERS

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* Please stand

***CLOSING HYMN #631 "In the Presence of Your People"**

SONG LEADER

1 In the presence of your people
I will praise your name,
for alone you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
Let us celebrate your goodness
and your steadfast love;
may your name be exalted
here on earth and in heaven above.

2 All who love you sing your praises
and proclaim your power,
for alone you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
You have not ignored our suffering
but have heard our cry;
may your name be exalted
here on earth and in heaven above.

3 All who seek your rule will praise you
and be satisfied;
for alone you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
All the peoples of the nations
will bow down to you;
may your name be exalted
here on earth and in heaven above.

BENEDICTION

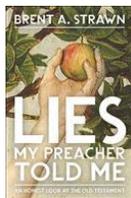
PASTOR

POSTLUDE

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS



While donations of non-perishable items can be accepted on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM, you are encouraged to support this ministry with a monthly monetary donation of \$4.00 – a dollar a week can bring food to an empty pantry.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

10 Agnes Tumfour
14 Nadine Pusey

New Bible Study Starting May 5th: *Lies My Preacher Told Me: An Honest Look at the Old Testament* will be our resource for this upcoming study. See Pastor Ron for your book.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83546573066?pwd=OGU2K3R4MFU5NG52SjdkUkhaZWJkZz09>

Dial in by phone:

929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 835 4657 3066

Passcode: 127591

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