

TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Third Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2019

829 Salem Road - Union, New Jersey

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAY LEADER

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsively*)

LAY LEADER

We have traveled from the horror of Good Friday
to the joy and celebration of Easter.

We will give thanks to you forever, O God.

The Lord has turned our sorrow and sadness
into dancing and joy.

We will give thanks to you forever, O God.

We come now to worship the one who transforms fear
into resurrection love.

We will give thanks to you forever, O God.

OPENING PRAYER

LAY LEADER

God of Life,

we gather this day with the victory bells of Easter
still ringing in our ears.

We come joyfully this day
to celebrate your power and glory,
your wisdom and might.

May we remain faithful to your call to follow Jesus,
secure in your promise:

that life will triumph over death,
that hope will triumph over despair,
and that love will triumph over fear.

We lift our grateful hearts to you. **Amen.**

***HYMN: #667**When Morning Gilds the Skies

CALL TO CONFESSION

LAY LEADER

When your soul is suffering in silence,
call out to the Lord our God,
who heals our brokenness,
who lifts us up from the pit and restores our lives.
Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

ALL

**Resurrected One, you have proven
that nothing can defeat the power of your love,
and yet we continue to nurture our doubts.
Time and again, you demonstrate your ability
to transform despair in our human story
into miraculous hope in your divine narrative,
and yet we make ourselves at home
in the pit of desolation.
Over and over, you patiently plant your seeds of joy,
and yet we continue to scoff
at the puny seedlings that sprout,
as if we've never before witnessed
the tenacity of your regenerative Spirit.
God, call us again to follow you.
Show us again the miracle of your abundance.
Lead us again from the depths of our fear
into the Easter light of your never failing love. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

LAY LEADER

Hear this song of praise that God's people
have been singing for thousands of years:
"O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those
gone down to the Pit."
God heals all wounds, rescues all sinners,
and forgives all debts.
Join the song of praise!

***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

We are Easter people;
let us embody the joy of the resurrection as we
greet one another in the name of Christ.
The Peace of Christ be with you!
And also, with you.

ANTHEM: “Lift High The Cross” by Robert Lau (please see insert)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PASTOR

SCRIPTURE:

PASTOR

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

SERMON “*An Unlikely Friendship*”

PASTOR

***HYMN:** #451 Open My Eyes, That I May See

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

PASTOR

(Page 35 of the GTG)

A TIME OF SHARING – JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTOR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
(Responsively)

PASTOR

O Lord our God,

We cry to you for help.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith;
give them freedom, peace, and safety.

We cry to you for help.

We pray for those who breathe curses and threats;
give them new hearts and new lives to glorify you.

We cry to you for help.

We pray for those who work by day and night;
give them satisfaction and rest from their labors.

We cry to you for help.

We pray for those who fear their efforts are in vain;
fill their lives with your providence and grace.

We cry to you for help.

We pray for all who suffer in sickness and grief;
give them healing, hope, and joy.

We cry to you for help.

We pray for the faithful in every nation of the earth;
give them voices to praise your name forever.

As we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying...**Our Father...**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

LAY LEADER

We have been called to be witnesses to our faith.
We have been called to do so with joy and praise.
With hearts full of thanksgiving for all that we have received,
let us commit ourselves and our resources
to enable the church to be that fearless witness.

***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

Generous God,
you have given us nothing less than new life.
We pray that our thanksgiving and rejoicing
will find a home through our gifts to you.
In mission, in outreach, and in ministry,
may we live out resurrection hope each day
as we answer your call to feed your sheep.
With grateful hearts,
we pray in the name of the living Christ. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PASTOR

Come into the deep water of God's love.
Cast your nets into the miraculous waters of Christ's grace.
Drink of the living water,
eat of the bread of life,
for this is the table of abundant love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Responsively*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our loving God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This is the day that you have made, O Lord—
the first day of the week,
when you created light out of darkness
by the power of your Word and Spirit,
when you created life out of death,
raising Jesus from the grave.

On this first day of the week
we await the coming of your new creation,
when we will be glad and rejoice forever,
singing:

**Holy, holy, holy One,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in your holy Name.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ our Lord.

With thanksgiving, we remember his words:
I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you.

We remember how he took a loaf of bread,
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

We remember how he took the cup after supper, saying,

This cup that is poured out for you
is the new covenant in my blood.
Whenever you drink it, remember me.

As death came through Adam,
resurrection has come through Christ.
Christ our Lord is coming again to reign
and to put all enemies under his feet.

Remembering your gracious acts,
we offer our lives to you in service and praise
as we keep the feast that Christ prepares:
bread of heaven,
cup of salvation,
resurrection and life.
Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Gracious God,
now pour out your Holy Spirit among us:
in this bread,
in this cup,
in your people;
one in the body,
one in the blood,
one with Christ,
one in mission,
one in ministry;
in this place,
in every place,
in this world,
in the world to come. **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

ELDERS

***HYMN: #4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name**

CHARGE and BLESSING

PASTOR

POSTLUDE

WORSHIPPERS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED:

Join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service for refreshments and a time of fellowship.

The Townley Spring Rummage Sale will be held:

Friday, May 10, 2019 from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Please mark your calendars and keep in mind the following important dates:

1. **May 4, 2019 (Saturday):** We will be setting up the tables at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall for the rummage sale. If you can help us with the set-up, please let us know.
2. **May 5, 2019 (Sunday):** After church, we will begin to organize our donations and begin to place them on the tables for the sale. Please plan to stay after church and help if you can.
3. **May 6 - May 9, 2019 (Monday thru Thursday):** We will be working in Fellowship Hall every day setting up for the sale from 10:30 am - 2:00 pm and in the evening from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Please plan to come out and lend us a hand. Any amount of time is appreciated.
4. **May 10, 2019 (Friday):** Rummage Sale is from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. If possible, please plan to help out on the day of the sale. Again, any amount of time you can give is appreciated.
5. **May 11, 2019 (Saturday):** Bag Day is from 9 am - 12:00 noon. Clean-up begins at 12:00 noon. Volunteers are needed to help with clean-up.

See Janet Sangekar or Linda Zehner if you have any questions. **THANK YOU!** As always, we appreciate your support.

Please note: Donations should be placed in the Chapel basement or in the old Choir Room. Please see Linda Zehner for assistance or if you have any questions.

A Note from Our Treasurer: 4/28/2019
We received \$895 in pledge & plate.
Janet Sangekar

“A Time for Prayer” - Mondays at 4:00 PM

Study Resumes May 15 – 6:00 PM
6 Themes of the Bible Everyone Should Know

Thank you to everyone who contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). If you haven't yet made a donation and would like to do so, it is not too late. Donations to OGHS are still being accepted. Thank you again for your support of this special offering. Mission Division

FOOD BANK SUNDAY
Townley’s Program Task Force is spearheading a **Food Bank Sunday**, where on each 4th Sunday they will receive donations of non-perishable food items to contribute to the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. We are asking our members to support this initiative by giving one non-perishable food item (or \$1) per week. Kindly drop off your items in the **Food Box** in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

To learn more about Townley Presbyterian Church:

- Email us at: townleychurch@yahoo.com
- Call the office:
(908) 686-1028
- Visit our website: Townleychurch.org
- Like Us on Facebook: Townley Church

Ron Thompson, Pastor

| MAY BIRTHDAYS | |
|----------------------|----|
| Agnes Tumfour | 10 |
| Sandy Corritore | 18 |
| Tom Hunt | 24 |
| Betsy Smith | 31 |

I want to thank all of you for the Wonderful 77th Birthday Party you helped my family make possible. I was beyond surprised- I believe I said “Bamboozled”. Thank you for sharing the day with me.
Irene Schoenwalder