

*Welcome to
St. Peter's Pikeland
United Church of Christ*

1193 Clover Mill Road
Chester Springs, Pennsylvania 19425
610.933.6419



*Third Sunday of
Easter*

May 4, 2025
10 a.m.

WELCOME AND JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

COMING OF THE LIGHT

*Please use this time for silent meditation before worship.
During the service, the people will make the responses
in the **bold print**.*

GATHERING

Let us gather in heart, mind, and spirit to hear Good News, for we have received the Resurrection promise in Jesus Christ.

Alleluia! The God of heaven has bridged the gap between heaven and earth, for Christ is risen indeed.

Saving grace is offered to all who turn to God and believe.

We turn to God this day in joy and gratitude. Bless us, we pray, and be with us in Word and Spirit.

Be with us, Holy One. Nurture and refresh our spirits, that we may know ourselves as the people of God in the world.

ALL: Let us worship God.

HYMN 28

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

All who are able may stand for the hymn and prayers that follow.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

All life comes from God, and is precious and loved in the eyes of heaven. Sadly, our world does not always reflect these truths. Let us confess our great need for God in our lives and in our world:

Gracious God, we confess that, too often, our hearts and minds are far from you. We confess that our words and deeds do not always honor you. Forgive us, we pray, and fill us with the Spirit of Christ in all things. Amen.

Be at peace. The One to whom we turn has truly overcome the world, and even death itself. Receive the grace of a God who loves us without reservation. Praise be to God. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of new life, true life, and life eternal, help us to find in your holy scripture a simple, yet powerful, message of hope for our world. **Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON
The Scroll and the Lamb

Revelation 5:11-14
Pew Bibles, Page 248

A LESSON FROM PSALM 30:4-5, 10-12

We will read the psalm responsively,

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

GOSPEL LESSON

Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

John 21:1-19
Pew Bibles, Page 115

SERMON

Pastor Doug Hanson

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Romans 8:38-39 (adapted)
All may stand for the affirmation and the hymn that follows.

We affirm our faith in the risen Christ, and believe that, for those who are in Christ Jesus, neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HYMN 397 “Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers”

After the Hymn, please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION

*All may stand as the offering is presented
and remain standing for the prayer that follows.*

SONG OF PRAISE 780

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Merciful God, you have called the church to be a meeting place
of heaven and earth, where grace upon grace is offered to all.
We offer our gifts to your church, so that St. Peter's may offer
your hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.**

Please be seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

You who come to me shall not hunger;
you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**In company with all who hunger for spiritual food,
we come to this table to know the risen Christ
in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing
and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your
constant love for all you have made.

We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith
in every generation who have given themselves to your
will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent
from your own being as our Savior.

We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and
Resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church
for its mission in the world.

Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer
ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire
family of your faithful people everywhere:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith,
we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ.

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread,
and blessed, and broke it,
and gave it to the disciples and said:

“Take, eat: This is my body.”

Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks,
gave it to the disciples and said:

“Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood
of the covenant, which is poured out for many
for the forgiveness of sins.”

Let us say boldly what we believe:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.
Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine.
Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table,
that our eyes may be opened,
and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst,
in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

Amen.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven... (*Use debts . . . debtors*)

THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are ready.

The ushers will invite you to come forward for Communion.

Visitors are welcome to come forward.

*It is our custom to take the bread individually,
and the cup together at the Pastor's signal.*

After receiving, the Pastor will dismiss you with a blessing.

Use side aisles to return to your seat.

Place cups in one of the baskets provided.

*We use wine, water, and white grape juice
in our celebration of Holy Communion.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We give thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.**

**Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through
Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

HYMN 76 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

All who are able may stand for the hymn and the blessing.

BENEDICTION

After the Blessing, all may be seated until the postlude begins.

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE



TODAY'S WORSHIP

THE MESSAGE is brought to us by Pastor Doug Hanson

THE ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR is Kat Bowman

THE LECTOR today is Kathleen Wachsmuth

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by Joe and Joann Thomson in memory of Bradley Thomson

SOCIAL HOUR hosted by Barbara McCabe and Micki Menkins

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEAST: All are invited for another outside FEAST gathering behind Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 17th at 6pm. FEAST is a pot-luck dinner, and a fun way to enjoy fellowship with other members; perhaps some conversations with others that you haven't had a chance to talk to in the past

SIGN UPS: Please take a look at the sign up sheets posted in Fellowship Hall to see what you can sign up for in the upcoming Sundays to help with worship through ushering, altar flowers, reading scripture as our lector or hosting social hour.

CALL FOR GRADS: Please provide any graduate information to the church office by May 25th in order to be included in the June Beacon and celebrated on Sunday June, 1st for Celebration Sund

Our Prayer List

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:

Andrea Lafleur
Angie Schlessm
Ann Kieffer, cousin of Eric Johnson
Barbara Broyles, friend of the Wachsmuths
Barbara Shivers
Bill Cochran, friend of Fred and Maureen Wookey
Carol Meyer
Cole Davenport
Connie Hershey, friend of Micki and Alyssa Menkins
Charlie Fishman, Pete Warner's Nephew and Godson
Charles and Virginia Garber
Danielle Smith, friend of Sara Hackman
David Richman, friend of Grace Merryman
Debbie Rittenhouse, mother-in-law of Mitchell Warner
Diane, friend of Dee McClimon
Dr. Michael J. Ward
Ernie Gross, cousin of Fred Wookey
Gayanne Loring, sister of Dawna DeRosa
Gwen Davidson
Heather Murphy, cousin of Steve Krasley
Heidi Kieffer, daughter of Eric Johnson's cousin
Hugh Lawson
Jamie Glennon, friend of Eric Hanson
Jason Cox, cousin of Kelly Martini
Jeff Johnson, Co-worker of Eric Johnson
Jennifer Osborne
Jessica G., friend of Grace Merryman
Jim Smith, Denise Harlow's brother
John Pandjak
John Pittock, friend of Grace Merryman
Laura Dick
Laura S., friend of Grace Merryman
Lisa, cousin of Eric Johnson
Mary Andersen, friend of the McCarthys
Melinda Greenwood, cousin of Joe Thomson
Patrick, friend of Dee McClimon
Richard, friend of Dee McClimon
Sally Kramer, Cherri Romano's sister
Sandy Pereni, Joyce Rosen's sister
Sharon Basile, Jennifer Basile's mother-in-law
Sylvia Houff, Kathleen Wachsmuth's sister
Tara Cantello, friend of Denise Harlow
Tina Frick, friend of Sarah Hackman
Tracey Knox, cousin of Kathy Krasley