



First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood Worship
Mother's Day, The Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 8, 2022

*All who are able, please stand.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & SHARING OF CHURCH LIFE

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Give thanks to God and call on God's name! Tell everyone what God has done!

Sing to God! Praise God with music! Tell of God's wonderful works!

Be glad that we belong to God! Let all who worship God rejoice!

Go to the Lord for help! Worship God continually! Alleluia!

***HYMN #267**

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

1 Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!

Let all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;

praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;

his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

3 Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,

singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, trusting and believing that God is faithful and just to forgive us,
let us come to the throne of grace seeking mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Mystery,
we are constantly amazed by the depth and breadth of your love.
Over and over again, you turn our expectations inside out and upside down.
And still we don't understand the radical nature of your grace.
We play by our own rules of justice,
even when it means excluding those we are called to love and defend.
In our darkest moments, we doubt if we are worthy of your trust.
God, help us remember that you give us all the tools we need;
that through the solid foundation of your love,
we find the strength to follow your call as true disciples of Jesus Christ.
Surprise us again, O God. Surprise us again.
Hear us now as we silently confess to you...Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

This is the good news of the gospel, and it is for you and for all. Whatever you have done, whatever you have failed to do, whoever you are, whoever you wish you were, but are not. You are washed clean in the waters of baptism. You are raised up. You are forgiven. You are set free to let go of what is old and broken, to live a new life in the resurrection, and to follow Jesus together in a joyful way.

We are forgiven, loved, and accepted. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE #582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines"

1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

2 World without end, without end. Amen. (x3)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you: **and also with you.**
(For the safety of all, please share the peace with a smile or wave from your seat.)

GATHERING SONG "Because He Lives" refrain only

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future and life is worth a living just because He lives!

SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 37:1-6

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Tabitha had made while she was with them.⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.⁴³ Meanwhile Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

SERMON

"Rise Up!"

Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower

SPECIAL MUSIC

"People of God, Rise Up!"

Gillies/Houghton/Gungor

We could have tongues of angels. We could move mountains with our faith.
 We could give everything away, but if we don't have love, we're left with nothing.

We could see blind eyes opened, know all the mysteries of our faith.
 We could sing all the highest praise, but if we don't have love, we're left with nothing.

Chorus: People of God, rise up! Rise up and shine God's love!
 We are the light of the world, of the world, Oh!
 We are the light of the world, of the world, Oh!

Love is what holds it all together. Love never fails, it never dies.
 There is no deeper truth: We know that God is love, our God is love

Tear down the walls that divide us. Let love rebuild and unite us.
 All we need is, all we need is love.

SHARING OF THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS

LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY (responsive)

Like a mother hen brooding over her young, like a mama bear protecting her cubs,
 or an eagle stirring up the nest to teach the young to fly, God is mother of us all
 and gives us earthly mothers to bear, nurture, teach, and protect. So, ...

To those who gave birth this year to their first child
we celebrate with you

To those who lost a child this year
we mourn with you

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains
we appreciate you

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away
we mourn with you

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes,
prods, tears, and disappointment
**we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things.
We don't mean to make this harder than it is.**

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms
we need you

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children
we celebrate with you

To those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance with your children
we sit with you

To those who lost their mothers this year
we grieve with you

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother
we acknowledge your experience

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests,
and the overall testing of motherhood
we are better for having you in our midst

To those who have aborted children
we remember them and you on this day

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children
we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be

To those who step-parent
we walk with you on these complex paths

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be
we grieve with you

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year
we grieve and rejoice with you

To those who placed children up for adoption
**we commend you for your selflessness and remember
how you hold that child in your heart**

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising
we anticipate with you

**This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart
and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.**

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 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 RECEIVE OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

fpcedgewood.org/donate

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Risen Savior, responding to your love and grace, we offer our gifts of time, talent and service. May our offerings feed the hungry, cloth the poor, quench the thirsty, and shelter the vulnerable. Amen.

*HYMN #324

"For All the Faithful Women"

- 1 For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.
- 2 We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly
while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;
for Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,
who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.
- 3 We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan
while Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb
and found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.
- 4 Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

We invite you to sit and enjoy the postlude Sunny has prepared for us. This also helps with the live-streamed recording to have clear audio for those joining us in worship online.

Participants in this worship service:

The Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower, guest pastor | **Elder Florence Raisig**, liturgist
Shaun Cloonan, minister of music | **Sunny Sakai**, pianist | **The Sanctuary Choir**
John Foster, videographer

**Music presented with permission under
CCLI copyright license #1381818 & streaming license #20445653**

This service may be found posted on our website at www.fpcedgewood.org, on our **YouTube channel**,
or audio only on our SoundCloud channel at www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood



Welcome! Thanks be to God for allowing us to worship with you!

UPDATED IN-PERSON GUIDELINES (MARCH 2022): Due to the CDC's updated version of tracking COVID community levels, Allegheny County is now "Low." As a result, the Worship Committee has begun to slowly relax some of our guidelines for in-person worship:

- **Masks are now optional for all in attendance.** We will continue to have a supply of disposable masks at the entrances to the church for those who wish to wear one during services.
- **Please continue to social distance in the marked pews.**
- The choir will continue to mask during their hour-long rehearsal but may choose to remove the mask during the performance of the anthem in worship.
- Out of respect for those who choose or need to continue wearing masks, our practices of passing the peace and sharing communion from our seats, as well as collecting the offering at the entrances to the sanctuary will not change.

We will continue to monitor cases and transmission levels and will relax or strengthen this guidance as health and safety protocols dictate. Thanks to all for their cooperation in keeping our church family healthy and safe. We understand that each person is different with the possible risks he or she may have. Live-streamed online worship will continue to be available on Facebook and YouTube for those who choose to stay home until they feel safe to rejoin in person.

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY: first, welcome! Please fill out a blue visitor's card found in the pew rack. If you are interested in being on our email or newsletter mailing lists, provide that information so we can keep in touch. We hope you consider joining us more often!

THIS MORNING, WE WELCOME back to our pulpit the Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower as guest pastor.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! Today, let's celebrate by coming to Fellowship/Muffins for Mom, sponsored by the Board of Deacons, immediately following worship in the Gathering Place.

BOOK CLUB MEETS WEEKLY, discussing "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom. 10:00AM, Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue, Edgewood.

SESSION MEETING, Tuesday, May 10, 7:00PM in the Gathering Place.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: 7:00PM at <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/6670286724>
No password is needed. Email Tim Hoffman at HoffmanTL@gmail.com with questions.

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: May 22, following morning worship, there will be a short Congregational Meeting to elect additional officers.

RECYCLE BINS are located in the last pew of the sanctuary and a blue bin at the side entrance for bulletins, cups, (list of what is accepted is posted on bins).

SATURDAY, MAY 21, FPCE welcomes the Munhall Community Band to our sanctuary for their spring concert. Mandy Rineer and Jim Segedy both play with this ensemble. Enjoy concert band performances of music by Holst, Mozart, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Brubeck, Borges, Miranda, and more! Doors open at 4:30PM. Raffle baskets will be available to support MCB. 5:00PM in the Sanctuary, free with registration at munhallband.org.

JOIN US FOR UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

May 15 – Fifth Sunday of Easter, Emerging Worship, Heather Henkel preaching

May 22 – Sixth Sunday of Easter, Rev. Bob Ruefle preaching, Congregational Meeting follows

May 29 – Seventh Sunday of Easter, Rev. Jane Duffield preaching, Memorial Day Observance follows?

June 5 – Pentecost, Emerging Worship, Hunter Steinitz preaching (10AM summer worship begins)

June 12 – Trinity Sunday, Rebecca Abbott preaching

CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

AH=Apessos Home, B=Basement Band Room, C=Choir Room,
GP=Gathering Place, L=Lounge, O=Office, PS=Pastor's Study,
S=Sanctuary, Sc=Scout Room, SL=Side Lawn, SR=Social Room

Monday, May 9

6:30PM Scouts (Sc/SR)
7:00PM Vocal Confluence (S)

Tuesday, May 10

10:00AM Book Club (AH)
7:00PM Session Meeting (GP)

Wednesday, May 11

7:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

Thursday, May 12

5:00PM Flute Lesson (L)
7:00PM Milepost6 (B)

Friday, May 13

5:00PM Flute Lesson (L)
8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

Saturday, May 14

8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

Next Sunday, May 15

9:30AM Worship Ensemble (S)
11:00AM Emerging Worship (S)
Youth Sunday School (GP)
12:00PM Fellowship (GP)

How can you become involved?

As we reopen, working to rebuild and reimagine the ministries at FPCE, consider if you have a heart for:

- Encouraging our younger members
- Learning more about God & faith
- Praising God through music
- Serving senior citizens
- Working in publicity/advertising

...please contact a member of our FPCE Family listed below for more details on how to become involved!

OUR FPCE FAMILY

Office & Cleaning Manager

Judy Mysels

office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager

Rob Mysels

building@fpcedgewood.org

Minister of Music

Shaun Cloonan

music@fpcedgewood.org

Pianist

Sunny Sakai

Sunnysakai4@gmail.com

Ministers

The Entire Congregation



*Believing we are called together by God's love through Jesus Christ,
our mission as the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is to
love God, to love each other, and to love our neighbors.*

120 East Swissvale Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218 | 412-241-4613 | www.fpcedgewood.org

