

WELCOME

Sixth Sunday of Easter



First Presbyterian Church
Lancaster, OH
www.firstpbc.org



May 5, 2024

***"This is how we know that we love the children of God:
by loving God and carrying out his commands."***

— 1 John 5:2

* *Denotes please stand*

CHIMES

WELCOME

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Everyone Who Longs for the Boundless Love of God
Worship Team

GTG 849

*CALL TO WORSHIP

As we gather under the watchful eye of our Creator, who sees all from the heavens, let us enter this time of worship with hopeful hearts.

We come together, called and cherished by God, ready to celebrate and affirm His steadfast love.

God's eternal plans stand firm across the ages. Today, as every day, we are invited to trust in these divine promises.

In trusting, we find strength, for our faith is the victory that conquers the world.

Through worship, let us draw close to the source of our salvation, acknowledging the life we have in Jesus Christ.

With grateful hearts, we unite in prayer and praise, assured that God hears us and responds with grace.

Now, in the fellowship of faith, let us embrace God's presence among us and the transformative power of His love.

May our acts of worship reflect our commitment to God and strengthen the bonds that connect us.

In one spirit and with one voice, let us worship God!

Lord, receive our worship as an expression of our love and devotion to you. Amen!

*OPENING HYMN 48

Rain Down

appears at the end of bulletin

*Large print hymnals are available
in the Narthex from a Greeter upon request.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you see us as we are and call us to grow in your grace. Together, we acknowledge where we have fallen short.

We confess that our faith sometimes waivers, that fear can overshadow our trust in you. Renew our courage, O God, and deepen our faith.

We have been called to love as you love.

Forgive us for the times we have walked past the needs of our neighbor, remained silent against injustice, and withheld kindness. Teach us to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you.

This beautiful world, a gift of your creation, requires our attentive care.

We confess our neglect, the times we have taken more than we need and given back less than we should. Inspire us to nurture the earth, to protect its wonders for generations to come.

In a moment of silence, reflect on these confessions and consider the personal steps we can take towards reconciliation and healing.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

Merciful God, receive these confessions of our community. As we strive to live better, to do better,

Mold our hearts and guide our actions. Empower us, heal us, and use us.

Lead us on a path that reflects your grace, your justice, and your boundless love.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, Amen!

*DOXOLOGY HYMN 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow [appears at the end of bulletin](#)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Following the Children's Message, the older children will remain with their parents. There are special Worship Bags for them in the Narthex to pick up before Worship.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MUSICAL REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 33:13-22

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



[Scripture Link](#)

CHORAL ANTHEM

I Love You / What a Wonderful World

Arr. by Craig Hella Johnson

*We can be together now and forever; I love you.
And when I'm prayin', I hear Him sayin', "I love you."
People all over the world, they're opening up,
they're coming around, and they're sayin',
"I love you."*

*I see skies of blue and clouds of white,
bright, blessed day and dark, sacred night;
and I think to myself, "What a wonderful world."*

*The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky,
are also on the faces of the people going by.
I see friends shaking hands, saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying, "I love you."*

(con't on next page)

*People all over the world, they're opening up,
they're coming around, and they're sayin',
"I love you."*

*I hear babies cry, I watch them grow;
they'll learn much more than I'll ever know,
and I think to myself, "What a wonderful world."*

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 5:1-5, 11-15

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

MESSAGE

MUSICAL INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD & THE CUP

Partake together when invited by the pastor

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN 542**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

appears at the end of bulletin

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**



FOLLOWING WORSHIP,
PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HERITAGE ROOM FOR
FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS



The flower arrangement is given to the glory of God in memory of Nancy Blaine,
given by Judy Custer.

Pastor: Rev. Nathan Loudon

Liturgist: Karen Hardie

Director of Family & Children's Ministry: Stephanie Loudon

Youth Group Leader: Leyton Mathias

Nursery Caregivers: Courtney Boyer

Claire Loudon

Director of Worship & Music: John McClain

Head Usher: Derrill Weaver

Video Production: Carter Davis

Audio Production: Addyson Brown

Lead Production: Julie Turnbull



The church family expresses its sympathy to the family of Ruth Skarsten, Caryn Ginter's mom, upon her passing on May 1, 2024.

Calling hours are Sunday, May 5, 6-8pm, and Monday, May 6, 10-11am at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pickerington, OH.

Funeral service is Monday, May 6, 11am at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pickerington, OH.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Dwayne R. Spence Funeral Home.

OFFERING

Your offering, and any other type of donation to the church, can be placed in the plate located in the Narthex or scan this QR code to place it online.



[Offering Link](#)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Communion Sunday (usually the 1st Sunday of the month) –

Following the Children's Message, the older children will remain with their parents. There are special Worship Bags for them in the Narthex to pick up before Worship.

2nd 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday of the month –

Following the Children's Message, kids Pre-K thru 5th grade, have Children's Church in the classroom across from the Nursery (Main Level), leaving the Sanctuary with a Children's Ministry leader.

WORSHIP BAGS

There are special Worship Bags in the Narthex for the children to pick up before Worship.

NURSERY

The Nursery (Main Level) is open for infants through 5 years old.

IN OUR PRAYERS

(Homebound in *italics*)

Molly Bates

Penny Gallup

Sue Ingram

Paul Jablonka

Marie Murray

Larry & Janet Neeley

Ed Pool

Jim Russell

Andrew Smith

Tina & Pete Wittich

*We are a praying church at First Presbyterian Church, believing in the power of prayer and collective prayer. **First Pres Prayer Chain** sends email prayer requests to 80+ prayer warriors.*

If you have prayer needs, submit them and/ or requests to be included as a prayer warrior to:

fir.pres.prayer.request@gmail.com.

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Rain Down

48

Capo 3: (D) (F#7) (Bm) (D7) (G)

F A7 Dm F7 B^b

Rain down; rain down; rain down your

(D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D) (F#7) (Bm)

F/A Gm7 C7 F A7 Dm

love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain

(D7) (G) (Em) (A7) (G) (D)

F7 B^b Gm C7 B^b F

down; rain down your love, God of life.

TEXT: Jaime Cortez, 1991
 MUSIC: Jaime Cortez, 1991; arr. John Carter, 2001
 Text and Music © 1992 Jaime Cortez (Published by OCP)

RAIN DOWN
 Irregular

SERVICE MUSIC

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures

here be-low; praise *him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

SENDING

542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -

fold you:
 vide you:
 round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 fore you:

After writing the first stanza of his "Christian Good-bye," the author sent it to two composers, one celebrated and one unknown, to see how each would set it. This is the second person's tune, which the author found more effective and used for the hymn's first publication.