

# Fifth Sunday of EASTER



May 10, 2020

For video viewing of music and service go to:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEO\\_pAVddaeV1\\_dOvvUd5eITX0IJKxqmM](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEO_pAVddaeV1_dOvvUd5eITX0IJKxqmM)

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together:

**C: *Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to following the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen***

## **\*THE FIRST LESSON**

### **Acts 7:55-60**

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

## **\*THE SECOND LESSON**

### **1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.<sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone

chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," <sup>8</sup>and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## **\*THE GOSPEL READING**

### **John 14:1-14**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

## **SERMON: PASTOR RICHARD CARBAUGH**

*In the 13th chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus makes an announcement to His disciples: "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, but where I am going you cannot come." Clearly, that news was unsettling to the disciples, for now in the 14th chapter of John Jesus says: "Let not your hearts be troubled..." A rather large section of the Gospel of John deals with Jesus preparing to depart. Realizing the grief and anxiety that departure is causing the disciples, Jesus tries to comfort and encourage them.*

Everyone one of us has known or will know what that experience is like. To be human is to know, at some point in our life's journey, the feeling of being left alone, of being left on our own. It is the feeling of losing a life partner through divorce, disease or death; it is the feeling of losing parents and realizing they are not there to lean on anymore; it is a part of the feeling of graduating from school and knowing that you will be on your own in a way you haven't been before; it may even be the feeling of spiritual emptiness or abandonment by God. It is the feeling that gives rise to the question: "What will become of me?" That's what the disciples were asking: "What will become of us if you go away Jesus?" To be left alone, to be left on our own, can be an overwhelming, uncertain, even fearful experience. When so many aspects of modern life make us feel so powerless, we begin to wonder what the future will hold, what support we will have. Even if we didn't have all of that going on, some would still worry. Worrying seems to be our nature sometimes. Charles Schulz, the creator of Peanuts, once said: "Sometimes you lie in bed at night, and you don't have a single thing to worry about." Then, he added: "That always worries me!"

The disciples are losing Jesus – at least losing Him in the way they have known Him. That worries them – deeply. Like children wondering when their parents will come home when they go out for the evening, the disciples want to know: "Where are you going? When will you be back? Who is going to be with us?" They want to know what is going to happen to them. Thomas says: "We don't know the way." Philip says: "Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied." They want reassurances and directions, something that will let them know it will be okay. In our lesson from 1st Peter, we encounter a newly born church still anxious about testing its wings. They are fledgling believers, still floundering on their own. They are uncertain and afraid, and they are discovering that truly being the church is an overwhelming thing. They need something to help them hang in there and move ahead.

So what can be offered in such times so hearts are not troubled and people are not afraid? In our Gospel, Jesus knew the disciples would grieve His going away. He doesn't tell them not to grieve – that is unavoidable. He knows they will be anxious about not having Him around in the same way – that too is unavoidable. But Jesus encourages them to not be troubled or afraid about all of that. Jesus says: "Believe me" and "Ask me". Believe me – believe in God, believe also in me. Believe what I am telling you – and if you can't do that, then believe me because of all the things you have seen me do. Trust my words, Jesus says – and remember that I have backed up those words with actions. Ask me – whatever you ask in my name, I will do it. Those two things are what many of us lose sight of when we become overwhelmed and feel alone. In those times especially, Jesus encourages us to keep on believing – even when it is hard to do; and to keep on asking – even when we don't seem to be getting any answers.

First Peter tells us one thing more. To reassure these new Christians, Peter reminds them of who they are. These words are for me some of the most powerful in all of scripture. Peter says: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people. Once you were not a people; now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy; now you have received mercy." In the Old Testament book of Hosea, we find the people living more and more without regard for God. Hosea had married Gomer, and she was bearing him children. When the 3rd child was born, God instructed Hosea with these words: "Call his name 'not my people', for you are not my people, and I am not your God." The message is that the people are like a child that has been cut off from the family and disowned. Here, they should be worried that they will be left on their own.

But then we come to these words in 1st Peter, and the message is altogether different: "Once you were not my people; now you are my people". I love the story, told by Garrison Keeler, of a marriage that took place in mythical Lake Woebegone. It seems no one thought much of this marriage, except that they thought it probably wouldn't work out. After the marriage, the couple lived in a rather dismal place just outside of town, in a dismal trailer with a broken down car in the yard. Their clothes weren't much to speak of, and everyone noticed them when they came into town. One day, the husband up and left, and went east. Everyone thought he would. About that time, the wife received a letter from some man who said he had been doing some research into a family from Scotland, and he had learned that she was a descendant of the Royal Family of Scotland. This, he said, made her Royalty too. And if she would send \$10, he would send her a coat of arms showing her that she was indeed Royalty. So, she sent away for her coat of arms. When it came, she hung it on the wall in her home. And even though she was now alone, even though she still lived in the same trailer with the same broken down car in the yard, wearing the same clothes that weren't much to speak of – somehow, everything had changed; she was now different; she was Royalty – a member of the Royal Family of Scotland.

Jesus invites us, calls us, to remember and to believe these words – even to hang them on the wall in our homes: "YOU are a chosen race, a ROYAL priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people. Once you were not God's people; now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy; now you have received mercy." Those words may not change the places or the circumstances of where you live, but those words can change each of us as we live in those places. Therefore, I pray you can 'keep on believing, and keep on asking'; and in the process of doing that, always remember Jesus' words: "Do not let your heart be troubled." Amen.

## **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **\*PRAYERS**

A: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *(A brief silence.)*

A: Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Humble us, creator God, as part of your creation. Fill us with respect and awe for the world you have made, including volcanoes, ocean currents, tropical rainstorms, glaciers, and other forces that both destroy and create. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety (aid organizations may be named). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach young children, for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents, and for families who struggle with infertility and miscarriage. We give thanks for all who have shown mothering care, and we remember all for whom this day is difficult. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God, you are life. We pray for our world, our country, our community, our church as they face the challenges of coronavirus. We pray for those who grieve the loss of love ones, for the sick and their families, for those fearful of an unknown future. We pray for the millions of unemployed, for children and others at home - that they be safe from abuse. We pray for those who are alone and isolated during this time that they may feel your loving presence. We pray for all the hospital and health care workers, and all first responders, that they receive needed supplies and be kept protected in the work they do. We pray for those making decisions about how to live into the future and when that will happen. Keep us all in your care as we wait for a new day. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of families. For all our Messiah families and especially this week for the Ash, Bennett and Berg families. For the talents and good things You have given each of them. Keep them united and faithful to You and each other. Guide them, protect them and equip them to do Your will. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**C: *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 trespasses,***

***as we forgive those who trespass against us;***

***and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.***

***For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,***

***forever and ever. Amen.***

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **PASTOR CARBAUGH'S OFFICE HOURS**

For the time being Pastor Carbaugh will be working from home. If you need to reach him, his email address is: messiahmechpr@gmail.com. In the event of a pastoral emergency, he can be reached at 540-760-4089. Please be safe and take care during this challenging time for us.

## **WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>, we began providing a summary of the financial well-being of our congregation. Here is this week's information:

- Contributions to general fund averaged \$3083 through May 3rd (down from \$3185 on April 26<sup>th</sup>).
- We are \$5777.41 behind of the year-to-date budget needs (down from \$3713.41 behind the budget the week prior).

## **THANK YOU!**

Church Council would like to thank all members who have been able to continue donating regularly to Messiah. Your generosity has helped us to continue to fully pay staff members as well as meet all current monthly obligations without seeking financial assistance to do so. Even though apart, God is among the good people of Messiah! Stay safe until we are together again!

## **JOAN BARNES SCHOLARSHIP**

Church Council is pleased to announce that applications for the Joan Barnes Scholarship have been made available by our scholarship team. Hopefully all members have received an email with information concerning the changes in the scholarship process. Please note that all applications are due no later than June 22<sup>nd</sup> to the church office. All information along with the application has also been put on the church website. If you have specific questions about the scholarship or application process, please contact Sally Bennett at sallybennett3317@gmail.com and she will assist you.

## **LWR COVID-19 PROJECT**

COVID-19 is threatening vulnerable communities, and Lutheran World Relief urgently needs cloth face masks to send to them. The cloth mask you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world. How many will you make to help stop the spread? To sign up and get more information go to: [www.lwr.org/masks](http://www.lwr.org/masks).

### **ARE WE DESIGNATED?**

Over the years Messiah members have enrolled in donation programs through Kroger's Community Award Program and Amazon Smile that allow for you to choose a charitable organization to receive a small donation based upon what you spend in these places. If you would like for Messiah to be your designated organization at one or both of these businesses, please enroll directly with them and specify us. If you've already enrolled and would like us to receive donations, please check to see if Messiah is your charitable organization. With God's will and your generosity, Messiah will continue to survive!

### **UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...**

In agreement with Governor Northam's order, Church Council voted for our building to remain closed to the public until June 10, 2020. Davina will continue to hold office hours during the week and we will continue to publish our Mid-Week and Sunday Services on YouTube, the church website, and Facebook. We will keep you updated on future developments when they occur. Stay well and safe until we are physically together again. We remain God's Church even though we are apart. Peace be with you all. - Your Church Council

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

To continue in your faithful giving, mail in your offering to the church office, 8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, or use on-line giving through Vanco which is available on the church website. See [messiahmech.com](http://messiahmech.com) for more details.

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Those who would like to place announcements in our Sunday 'ebulletin' please send them to Donna Shaw at [dmshaw70@gmail.com](mailto:dmshaw70@gmail.com) by Wednesday for inclusion.

# Prayer List

## WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Kenneth Deere	"Doc" Kondaki
Adam Dworak, Sr.	Linda Krupa
JoAn Firebaugh	Mac McAllister
Bill Fulop	Roberta McMillen
Elisabeth Gardner	Pat Motley
Werner Gardner	Nathan, Ruth Schroeder & family
Steve Gilnett	Judy Schwerdtfeger
Geoffrey Honan	

## WE PRAY FOR OUR EXTENDED FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS

**Danny Allen**, friend of the Whirleys  
**Boyd Allison**, friend of Jean Wightman.  
**Family and Friends of Dennis Anderson**, father of James Anderson.  
**Joe Griffin**, friend of Anne Mason.  
**Pete Gunn**, friend of the Schwerdtfeger's  
**Christina Nibali**, sister of Anita Philip.  
**Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger.  
**Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger.  
**Family and friends of Wanda Umlauf**, Vicar Ginny Banister's mother  
**T.J.**, grandson of the Whirleys.

**Pastor Carbaugh**, as he walks with us in this interim time  
**Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families**  
**All law enforcement, firefighters & first responders**  
**The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine**, of All Souls Episcopal & our shared ministry

**Hospitals, nursing homes, other health care facilities**  
**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
**The World Health Organization Medical researchers and scientists**  
**Schools, workplaces, government institutions and municipal agencies**  
**For all who travel**