**April 28, 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Announcements**

**Prelude – Bell Choir** *Now the Green Blade Riseth*

**Solemn Declaration**

**Call to Worship**

Pastor:  Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God.

 Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God.

**Congregation:   Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

**\*Invocation (Pastor)**

Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us forth from the womb of your being and breathed into us the breath of life.  We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you.  Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ.  May Jesus’ promise, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them be fulfilled in us.  Make us a joyful company of your people so that with the faithful in every place and time we may praise and honor you, God Most High.  Amen.

**\*Hymn #459** *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

**\*Call to Confession**

Pastor:  Jesus, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.

**Congregation:   But only say the word, and your servant will be healed.**

Pastor:   You may be seated for our prayer of confession.

**Confession of Sin (Unison)**

**God of all mercy, we confess before you and each other that we have been unfaithful to you.  We lack love for our neighbors, we waste opportunities to do good, and we look the other way when you cry out to us in the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need.  We are sincerely sorry for our sins, both those we commit deliberately and those that we allow to overtake us.  We ask your forgiveness and pray for strength that we may follow in your way and love all your people with that perfect love which casts out all fear;  through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.  Amen.**

*Silence*

**Prayer for Mercy**

Pastor:   Lord, have mercy.

**Congregation:   Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor:   Lord, have mercy.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Pastor:   God hears the confession of our hearts and lips.  Through Jesus Christ we

 are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new

 life.  Believe the good news!

**\*Gloria #759**

 *Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*

*world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**\*Peace of Christ**

**\*Youth Message**

**\* Statement of Believe (written by the Confirmation Class—2024):**

**“We are children of God, our Creator, who loves us and provides for us.  He loves us and forgives us. We believe in Jesus Christ who is our Savior and Teacher.  He died for our sins. We believe that the Holy Spirit guides us to be loving and caring.  The Holy Spirit is always present. We Believe in sharing our kindness by putting sparkle into other people’s lives.”**

**Anthem***“Be**Exalted”* Brent Chambers

**Scripture and Sermon in form of Hymn Sing**

**Hymn #506** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

(vs. 1-3; John 15: 15 “I have called you friends.”) Reflection by Pastor Austin

**Hymn #451** *Be Now My Vision*

 (vs. 1; Ephesians 1: 8b-12 “With all wisdom and insight…”) Refection by Pastor Kris

**Hymn #347** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

(vs. 1 & 3; Luke 10:1-9 “Go! I am sending you”) Reflection by Pastor Marti

**Hymn #471** *What a Covenant*

 (vs. 1 & 3; Deut. 33:27 “…underneath are the everlasting arms.”)

 Reflection by Pastor John

**Hymn #522** *I Love to Tell the Story*

 **(**vs. 1 & 4; Luke 1: 3 “…starting from the story’s beginning…”)

 Reflection by Pastor Austin

                         **+ ORDER FOR TIMES OF PASSAGE: FAREWELL +**

(Peg Schwarz-Green is representing the Ursinus Association UCC)

**Greeting**

Peg: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go.

 Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another.

 Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives.
 Individuals move into our community and church life.
 Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new

 opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage,

 of endings and beginnings.
 Today we share the time of farewell with a friend who is leaving.

**Remembrance and Recognition**

Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ.

**Giving and Sharing Symbols**

**Ending an Authorized Ministry**

**Recognition of The End**

Peg: ​ On April 1, 2017, Zion’s UCC called Austin Chinault to serve as pastor.

Austin: I thank Zion’s, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support

 shown me these last 7 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

 I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.

 As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you**

 **now leave to retire. We express our gratitude for your time among us.
 We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.
 Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your**

 **departure.**

**Austin:** I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and

 our parting are pleasing to God.

*All who are able may stand.*

**\*Vows of Release**

Peg -  addressing the congregation

 Do you, the members and friends of Zion’s UCC release Austin from the duties

 of pastor?

**People: ​We do, with the help of God.**

Peg: Do you offer your encouragement for his life and ministry as it unfolds in new

 ways in Retirement?

**People: ​We do, with the help of God.**

Peg: ​Do you, Austin, release Zion’s from turning to you and depending on you?

Austin: ​I do, with the help of God.

Peg: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here at Zion’s and

 on their relationship with another who will come to serve?

Austin: ​I do, with the help of God.

*Please be seated.*

**Witness of The Conference/Association**

Peg: On behalf of the Ursinus Association and the United Church of Christ, I witness

 to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release.

 The member churches of our Association and Conference hold each of you

 in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

**All: ​ Thanks be to God**

**Prayer**

Peg: ​Let us pray.

**All: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust**

 **the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your**

 **name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide**

 **us as we hold these cherished memories but move un new directions,**

 **until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with**

 **each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

*All who are able may stand.*

**\*Hymn #476** *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*

 *(How Can I Keep From Singing)* (vs. 1 & 4)

**\*Benediction**

Peg: Go now, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of

 Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.  Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**Pastoral Prayer and our Lord’s Prayer (Unison)**

**“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”**

 **Prayer Response**

*“Sweet Hour of Prayer!  Sweet hour of prayer!*

*Whose wings shall my petition bear,*

*to One whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.*

*And since I’m bid to seek God’s face, believe God’s word, and trust God’s grace.*

*I’ll cast away my every care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!”*

**Call to Offering** **(Pastor)**

All people shall give as they are able, according to the blessings which God has given them.

**Offertory**

**\*Offering Response #780**         *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, you heavenly host:*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**Accept these offerings now placed on your altar, O God, the giver of every good and perfect gift.  Grant that they may be symbols of our love and of ourselves now offered more fully to you.  Amen.**

**\*Hymn #595** *I’ll Fly Away*

**\*Benediction (Pastor)**

And now, may the LORD bless you and keep you, may the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  May the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you Shalom, peace.  Amen.

**Postlude**

Special thank you to our musicians today: Keith Clattenburg, William Conrad, Jim Miller, and Brian Miller

Also, with appreciation for our Music Coordinator, Laura Clattenburg.

Another special thank you to the pastors who agreed to share reflections today:

Rev. John Folk, Trinity Reformed UCC

Rev., Dr. Kris Hayden, Zion’s UCC

Rev., Dr. Marti Smith, Zion’s UCC

Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister

Finally, thank you to Peg Schwarz-Green from the Committee on Ministry of the Ursinus Association, UCC.

 **ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 28, 2024**

**Flowers on the Altar** presented by Kay Bachkai in memory of her parents, Joseph and Virginia Shultz.

**Flowers on the Organ** are given by the Altar Guild in grateful appreciation of Pastor Austin and Diane’s years of dedication to Zion’s.

**Prayer List:** The grieving family of Charles Kulp, The grieving family of Mark Miller, The grieving family of Dave Stout, The people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria, The victims of the tornadoes and natural disasters, Richard Adinolfi, Alvin Behm, Marsha Biehl, Joe Brogley, Irene Burkhardt, Joan Clouser, Laurie and Peter Eaton, Linda Egolf, Doris Evenstad, Ruth Hardaker, Betty Hawthorne, Adam Hayden, Kathy Hughes, Dorcas Kieffer, Jim Kirkhoff, Betty Leister, Robert Mackie, Eleanor Mauger, Daryll McCormick, Calvin Miller, Dan and Lois Oister, Phyllis, Holly Rhoads, Dave Richards, Bill Ross, Christian Ross, Kenneth Shellenberger II, Karen, Paul, and Scott Steffey, Lee Steiner, Bob Stengel, Pat Stout, Dottie Taylor, Dotty Washburn, Patti Whisler, Barbara Ziegler

**Wednesday, May 1 –** Wednesday Crew

 Quilters

 Pizza and Ping Pong, 5:30 p.m.

 Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m.

 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

**Looking Ahead**

**Sunday, May 5 –** Worship service at Trinity, 10:15 a.m.

**Announcement -** We are looking for volunteers to help stream our Sunday morning services online.  We will need camera operators and computer operators.  It is our plan to create a schedule that rotates through the month.  If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Brian Miller at 484-941-4842 or bmiller121611@gmail.com.

**Emmanuel's Attic Sale**

Over the last two years, volunteers have been cleaning out and sorting the contents of Emmanuel’s Attic (along with other spaces), relocating the items that are useful and historic to other areas within the building. What is left has been set up in the Fellowship Hall for sale to the public. Proceeds realized from the sale of these items will benefit the ministries of Emmanuel. Sale dates/times are Saturday’s May 4 and 11; from 8AM to 12PM. You will find tables filled with Household Items, Electronics, Fabric, Office Supplies, Christmas, and Toys (vintage and newer), with Furniture around the perimeter of the room. Everything is priced to sell! Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 150 N. Hanover Street, Pottstown. Please park and enter in the back of the building.

**Save your Redner’s Receipts!** Please, place your Redner’s Save-A-Tape receipts in the box in the lobby of the Sunday School building. We need the entire register tape in order to get credit. Redner’s will donate 1% of sales to our church.

**Get on Board with Market Cards! Support Your Church!**

Members and friends may purchase a Giant and/or Redner’s Gift card to use for groceries or gas. Denominations of cards come in $25, $50, or $100. There is no charge to you but our church receives 5% of the grocery card purchased. Gift cards to Redner’s or Giant are available Sundays in the Sunday School building or during the week through the church office.

***CareBag List for Pottstown Infusion Center***

Here is a suggested list of donations:

—Knit hat

---Neck Noodle

—Hand lotion/chap stick

—mouth wash

—Prayer shawl/ lap blanket

—diamond painted angel keychain

—a CareNote (or similar) booklet

—word puzzle book

—notepad and pencil