

May 7, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE	“Méditation Sérieuse” (Bartlett)	Henry Repp
GREETING		Rev. Todd Lattig
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Kathleen Meredith
We seek the Word of God, but may not hear the messenger. Open our eyes and ears to accept the message without judging. Help us to see the truth. With a loving ear, let us hear the Word of God at work in the world. With trust, we can all be instruments of God.		
*OPENING HYMN	“How Great Thou Art”	UMH 77
*OPENING PRAYER		Kathleen Meredith
Eternal God, at times we let presumptions block us from seeing your gifts in other people. Change us by the power of your Holy Spirit. Renew our hearts, open our spiritual eyes to see your greater purpose and potential in all persons. Walk beside us as we obey your call to encourage one another, create space, and help each other use our God-given gifts for your work in the world. Amen.		
ANTHEM	“What Does the Lord Require?” (Pote)	Chancel Choir
COMMUNITY PRAYER		Rev. Lattig
CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER		Chancel Choir
KIDS ROCK CHILDREN’S SERMON		Rev. Lattig
SCRIPTURE READING		Kathleen Meredith

Acts 9:1-22

9 Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord’s followers. So he went to the high priest. ² He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

³ As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?”

⁵ “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked.

And the voice replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!” ⁶ Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

⁷ The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone’s voice but saw no one! ⁸ Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. ⁹ He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

¹⁰ Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord!" he replied.

¹¹ The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. ¹² I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again."

¹³ "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! ¹⁴ And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

¹⁷ So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. ¹⁹ Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength.

Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. ²⁰ And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!"

²¹ All who heard him were amazed. "Isn't this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus' followers in Jerusalem?" they asked. "And didn't he come here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?"

²² Saul's preaching became more and more powerful, and the Jews in Damascus couldn't refute his proofs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God for this Word.

SPECIAL MUSIC "In Remembrance" (Red-Larson) Chancel Choir

SERMON Rising Strong: "Rising from Hatred" (Saul/Paul) Rev. Lattig

HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)

OFFERTORY "Larghetto" (Händel) Henry Repp

You may leave your offering in the plate in the narthex or scan one of the QR codes on the back of this bulletin to make your offering electronically.

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Kathleen Meredith

God of Love, we offer you our gifts and energy to help our church and people of the world who are hurting. Pour out your blessings on these gifts and help us to remember to be thankful as we pray in your name, Jesus. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "One Bread, One Body" UMH 620

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE "Fanfare" (Lemmens) Henry Repp

This Week's Calendar

Monday, May 8	10 Chair Yoga (HH) 6 Book Study*
Tuesday, May 9	5 Manna House Spaghetti Dinner at Presbyterian Church
Wednesday, May 10	7 New Sussex Symph. Rehearsal 7 Trustees/Ad Council Meeting*
Thursday, May 11	7 Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, May 13	9-2 Treasures of Hope 11-1 Prayer Vigil at Parsippany UMC
Sunday, May 14	9 Joy Fellowship & Sunday School 10:30 Sanctuary Service

Mother's Day

* via Zoom

Tithe.ly



PayPal



Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor
Liturgist
Organist/Music Director
Greeter
Camera Operator
Soundboard Operator

Rev. Todd Lattig
Kathleen Meredith
Henry Repp
Evelyn Cornwell
Jen Phlegar
Jay Morrison



Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God and one another.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which our Lord gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in unison with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

