


May 14, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day



Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE	“Fantasia” (Dubois)	Henry Repp
GREETING		Rev. Todd Lattig
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Kathleen Meredith
We come today seeking refuge and unification during conflict.		
Help us to address our fears and listen to each other.		
We pray for resolving disagreements and open ourselves to see both sides.		
Help us to bring about change and welcome new ideas.		
God, grant us peace in finding unity which will strengthen us.		
*OPENING HYMN	“Trust and Obey”	UMH 467
*OPENING PRAYER		Kathleen Meredith
Lord of all, you are the living word on whom we depend daily, yet we long for unity and peace in our communities, in your houses of worship, and among fellow believers.		
Help us to see by your Word and steady loving presence, O God, that we can let go of fears and live in your freedom of obedience and grace; for your perfect love casts out fear.		
Remind us, Holy One, of our power within us to be gentle, our patience and openness to be understanding, and our strength to be forgiving. Our hearts are open to be shown how to rise to wholeness and walk into harmony where your Word and love prevail. Amen.		
ANTHEM	“Holiness to the Lord, So Be Ye Holy” (Hendron)	Choir
COMMUNITY PRAYER		Rev. Lattig
CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER		Chancel Choir
KIDS ROCK CHILDREN’S SERMON		Rev. Lattig
SCRIPTURE READING		Kathleen Meredith

Acts 15:1-21

15 While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question.³ The church sent the delegates to Jerusalem, and they stopped along the way in Phoenicia and Samaria to visit the believers. They told them—much to everyone’s joy—that the Gentiles, too, were being converted.

⁴ When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them. ⁵ But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, “The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses.”

⁶ So the apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue. ⁷ At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows: “Brothers, you all know that God chose me from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe. ⁸ God knows people’s hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. ⁹ He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith. ¹⁰ So why are you now challenging God by burdening the Gentile believers with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear? ¹¹ We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.”

¹² Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

¹³ When they had finished, James stood and said, “Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Peter has told you about the time God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people for himself. ¹⁵ And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written:

¹⁶ ‘Afterward I will return
and restore the fallen house of David.

I will rebuild its ruins
and restore it,

¹⁷ so that the rest of humanity might seek the LORD,
including the Gentiles—
all those I have called to be mine.

The LORD has spoken—

¹⁸ he who made these things known so long ago.’

¹⁹ “And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. ²⁰ Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood. ²¹ For these laws of Moses have been preached in Jewish synagogues in every city on every Sabbath for many generations.”

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

Thanks be to God for this Word.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Melinda McCoy-Miller

“Largo e dolce from *Sonata in b minor*” (Bach)

SERMON

Rising Strong: “Rising from Quarreling”

Rev. Lattig

OFFERTORY

“Offertory” (Dubois)

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

Dear God — As we offer our gifts, help us to remember the many blessings we have from your love and how we can share them with others. Through our communities and church, we praise God with service and love. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

“I Love to Tell the Story”

UMH 156

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE

“Grand Choer” (Dubois)

Henry Repp

This Week’s Calendar

Monday, May 15

10 Chair Yoga (HH)

2 ABC Book Club*

6 Book Study*

Tuesday, May 16

10 Manna House Lunch Prep

6 Cub Scouts (HH)

7 New Sussex Symph. Rehearsal

Thursday, May 18

7 Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 19

7 NSS Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, May 20

9-2 Treasures of Hope

Sunday, May 21

4 New Sussex Symphony Concert

9 Joy Fellowship & Sunday School

10:30 Sanctuary Service

*** via Zoom**

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Today’s Worship Leaders

Pastor

Liturgist

Organist/Music Director

Greeter

Camera Operator

Soundboard Operator

Rev. Todd Lattig

Kathleen Meredith

Henry Repp

Kathleen Meredith

Jen Phlegar

Jay Morrison