WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021
9:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION
We seek to live Christ’s love, welcome all people and joyfully serve God.
Service for the Lord’s Day

As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

~GATHERING FOR GOD’S WORD~

PRELUDE

“Heart of Worship” arr. Mark Hayes
Worship Band

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP Deb Grossman, Liturgist

There is no greater love than this:

to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond understanding.
Pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

OPENING SONG #276 SING A NEW SONG

“Sing a New Song” (music at the end of the bulletin)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in the mercy of God,
let us confess to God and to one another
our failure to love our neighbor.
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,
we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit.
We have not loved others as you have loved us.
We have denied the promises of baptism
and cut ourselves off from you.
Forgive us, restore us,
that we may abide in your love
and live out your mercy,
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you.
In baptism God claimed you
and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine.
Believe the promise given to you:
in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE #642  “Heleluyan, We Are Singing”
(music at the end of the bulletin)

~PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD~

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION  Rev. Hannah Zyla
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Deb Grossman, Liturgist

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God,
in the reading of your Word,
that we would hear what you have to say to us today.
May your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8

15 ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

SONG #705

"You Are Holy" (Prince of Peace)

YOU ARE HOLY

~RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD~

OFFERING INVITATION

Offering what we have for the sake of others
is a discipline of pruning—letting go of our possessions,
our time, and even ourselves—
to extend the gospel witness into the world.
Be generous in your ministry of giving.
You need not fear; you abide in the vine.
OFFERTORY

“Holy is Your Name”

Mark Byrd

Now I praise You, Lord of all creation
You ordain the sun to rise and fall
You scatter the stars across the heavens
And You come close enough to hear me call

Now I want to say
Holy is Your name
Let all creation proclaim
Holy is Your name

Your love is the shelter over my soul
And You fill me with the wonder of a child
You will heal the humble and the broken
Mercy flows like a river running wild

On the highest mountain
I will lift my heart to the sky
From the lowest valley
Hear my cry

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In every time and every age, O God
it is good and faithful that we give you thanks,
for your mercy is sure
and your steadfast love endures forever.
In your compassion you gave us Christ Jesus,  
who sets us free from death  
and leads us to life eternal.

And so, with all creation,  
with all the needy and hungry ones,  
with all those who have enough and plenty,  
with creatures large and small,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
and with the saints of every age,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

    Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty,  
    who was and is and is to come.

    Blessing and glory and wisdom  
    and thanksgiving and honor  
    and power and might  
    be to our God forever and ever!

Blessed are you, O God, creator of all things.  
By your power and love you continue  
to deliver your people from bondage,  
thwart the designs of evil,  
show the way through the wilderness,  
turn hardship into righteousness,  
and reveal your hand upholding the just.
Blessed are you, O Christ, servant of the universe.
You came among us to feed and heal and teach,
to confound the haughty,
to confuse the deceivers,
to challenge the wrong-hearted,
and, in all these things,
to give hope to those who long for peace.

Remembering our Lord’s self-giving love,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ is the bread of life.

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,**
we proclaim the saving death of our risen Lord
until he comes in glory.

Blessed are you, O Spirit, giver of life.
You give us words when we have none;
you fill us with vision when we have the most need;
you give us voice to proclaim our faith in every hour.
Be our guide and teacher, today and always.

Come now, O Prince of Peace,
Spirit of Love,
Breath of Life.
Bring to all this hurting world the joy that Mary knew,
and teach us to proclaim with her,
“I have seen the Lord!”
In the unity of the Holy Trinity,
in gratitude for this great day of resurrection,
we praise you, God of all that is,
now and forever. Amen.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.
Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.
Jesus said: Come to me and never be hungry;
believe in me and never thirst.
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The blessing of the eternal, triune God—
Alpha and Omega,
first and last,
beginning and end—
be with you all. Alleluia!
Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.
CHARGE

Go out with joy that you have been fed and healed,
securely abiding as branches of the true vine.
Go and tell the story of faith
that is given to you by the One who never lets you go.
Seek out those who abound with sacred questions,
and be ready to answer an mystery with love.

INVITATION TO A LIFE OF FAITH

“You Are Holy” (Prince of Peace)
Worship Band

As you rest in the postlude, our final offering to God, you are invited to use this time to reflect on how you have met God here today, and how you will bring God’s love into the world that awaits.

BENEDICTION

As Jesus entered into human life,
his life is still alive in you.
The blessing of Almighty God be upon you
today and always.

Worship Notes

Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by:
Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012
Westminster John Knox Press from the PCUSA Book of Common Worship © 2018

Chancel Flowers

The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of all mothers; young, old, those who act as mothers and those who have passed, the gift of Betsy and Dennis Wacker.
Those Who Serve Today

Ushers: Donna Bellows, Becky Clausen, Betsy Wacker, Bob Weng, Judy Weng
Liturgist: Dennis Wacker
Camera Operators: Allison Byrne, Josh Zumwinkel

Online Worship

In order to reach beyond the walls of WGPC and into the homes of those who are unable to worship with us in person, each of our worship services is live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website, wgpc.org, Facebook and YouTube pages. Children’s participation in the Scripture Conversation indicates implied parental consent to be recorded.

Ministry Staff

Pastor: Rev. Edwin Zumwinkel III  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Hannah Zyla  
Theologian in Residence: Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews  
Pastoral Assistant for Congregational Care: John Rawlings  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist: Shawn Portell  
Interim Director of Youth and Family Services: Rev. Pat Cleeland  
Mission Outreach Coordinator: Beth Kazlaukas  
Connections Coordinator: Tracey Rapisardo  
Business Administrator: Jan Scheurer  
Assistant Business Administrator: Joyce Kimmons  
Senior Staff Assistant: open  
Educational Ministries Asst, Digital Communications Specialist: Cherstin Byers  
Custodians: Pete Brennan (Supervisor), Pierre Campbell, Ken Kastner

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www.wgpc.org
Sing a New Song unto the Lord  276
(Psalm 98)

Refrain

G  D  Ddim  Em  Am7

Sing a new song unto the Lord; let your song be

D  G  D7/A  G  G  D

sung from mountain's high. Sing a new song

Dim  Em  Am7  D7  G  Fine

unto the Lord, singing hallelujah!

G  D7/A  Am/G  D/F#  Em

1 Shout with gladness! Dance for joy! O come be-

2 Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior

3 Glad my soul for I have seen the glory

Am7  D7sus  D7  G  D7/A

fore the Lord. And play for God on

now has come. He has turned your

of the Lord. The trumpet sounds; the

Am/G  D  C  Am7  Dsus  D to Refrain

glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound.

sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song.

death shall be raised. I know my Savior lives.

This loose paraphrase effectively conveys the joyful tone of Psalm 98, largely by incorporating allusions to many other Scriptures, such as Psalm 149:3, Romans 13:11, Psalm 16:9, 1 Corinthians 15:52, and Job 19:25. These familiar echoes help to give the text depth and breadth.

TEXT and MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte, 1972, alt.

Text and Music © 1972, 2008 Daniel L. Schutte (Published by OCP)

SING A NEW SONG
Irregular
Heleluyan, We Are Singing

Refrain

Heleluyan, we are singing.

Hele, heleluyan. Heleluyan,

now and always. Hele, heleluyan.

1. Christians everywhere shall sing now and always:
2. Town and country people sing to Jesus:
3. People far and near will join the chorus:

heleluyan.

Chris-tians ev-ery-where shall sing now and al-ways:
Town and coun-try peo-ple sing to Je-sus:
Peo-ple far and near will join the cho-rus:

heleluyan.

This Muscogee hymn is a Trail of Tears song, a testimony that their Christian faith was more powerful than their mistreatment by those who took away their ancestral homelands. Revered and cherished, it remains the most popular Muscogee hymn sung in churches in Oklahoma.

TEXT: Muscogee (Creek) hymn; English vers. Brian Wen, 2008
MUSIC: Muscogee (Creek) melody; transcr. Carlton R. Young, 2008

English Vers. and Music Transcr. © 2008 General Board of Global Ministries (a CBGMusk
May 9, 2021 Announcements

Adult Education Hour - Taking Creation Seriously

Sundays, May 9th, 16th and 23rd, 10:45am - Fellowship Hall or Zoom

In this three week series led by John Hughes, we will explore what the Bible really says about God's creation--and it's not just one thing. We will also examine how faithful believers have struggled to find meaning in creation over the years. Finally, we will reflect on what creation might mean for us right now, in this time and place.

See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.

Pentecost Offering

Through May 23rd

This Sunday we begin collecting the Pentecost offering, an annual church-wide Special Offering that raises money for children and youth. The next three Sunday's Pentecost Special Offering will be distributed in this manner:

- 40% will go toward WGPC Children's Ministry
- 25% will go to support Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteers
- 25% will support PCUSA Ministries with Youth such as the Presbyterian Youth Triennium
- 10% will go to help children at-risk to improve education and provide safe havens

Please use the envelopes provided at church during worship or go to wpgc.org/give to contribute. Select "PCUSA Special Offering" at the bottom of the drop down menu and type "Pentecost" in the optional memo/comment box.

Thank you for supporting the young people of our church and denomination!

Under God’s Big Top: A Creation Carnival

Sundays, June 27th & July 25th

Join us on the church parking lot for games, activities, crafts, food and puppet shows! All ages, families, and abilities welcome. Watch this space for more information!

Interested in helping out? Contact Pastor Hannah at hmd@wgpc.org

Social Justice Film Club

Wednesday, May 12th, 7:00pm on Zoom

Watch this month's Social Justice film, John Lewis: Good Trouble then join us for discussion on May 12th from 7:00-8:00pm on Zoom. The film is available on Amazon Prime.

See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.
Congregational Art Project

*Thursday, May 13th, 10:00am-noon in the Church Kitchen*

You are invited to come and help make "Tongues of Fire" flames that will be used for our Pentecost service on May 23rd. We will be learning about and working with thermoplastic material, IDye Poly dyes and heat guns! Please RSVP to Shawn Portell, spp@wgpc.org if you plan to attend a session.

Music in a Great Place: Fox Creek Band

*Sunday, May 16th - 9:30am Worship Service*

From Bluegrass to Beatles, to Southern Rock and Motown, there isn’t anything the Fox Creek band hasn’t played during the 20 years since the group's inception.

Fox Creek started as a traditional bluegrass band, but the journey down those back roads took the band to new places and Steve O’Connell, a founding member of the group, just keeps taking new turns.

New band members have also come in. The latest configuration of Fox Creek includes O’Connell on guitar and vocals, long-time member Dan Horner on banjo, Joe Rapisardo on mandolin, harmonica and vocals, and Tracey Rapisardo on upright bass and vocals.

O’Connell, leader of the band, has played with several groups that have brought home honors including the Illinois Country Music Association’s Bluegrass Band of the Year for the Rosa String Works Band, and for gospel singing.

Dan Horner learned banjo while in high school from his schoolmate, the legendary John Hartford, (the songwriter of “Gentle On My Mind”). Horner has played in Gaslight Square and in bands in St. Louis, Cuba/Rolla, and while living in central Tennessee.

Joe Rapisardo started his own bluegrass band, Countryside Grass, in 1983 and played a four-state region for the next eight years. After that, he played 14 years with Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers.

Tracey Rapisardo came late to playing music but is making up for it now. A lover of the blues, she brings a deeper blue to bluegrass.

Each have their own unique roots in music, but they all come together to find the place where voices blend in harmony which is really the heart of bluegrass.

Pulled together and polished by Bill Monroe of the Kentucky Bluegrass Boys, American musical traditions weave themselves into a tapestry in bluegrass, from the string bands of Irish, Scottish and English immigrants, the rhythms and banjos of black slaves, the dark, tragic stories of coalminers, the hard scrabble life of mountain farmers, and the thread of the gospel that gave them all hope.
Let’s Be Happy Party!
**Sunday, May 23rd, 4:00-6:00pm - Church Parking Lot**

The Gathering Task Force invites you, your family and friends for a fun afternoon of fellowship!

*Live Music by Tracey Rapisardo and The Big River Trio*
*Family Games and Special Beverages*
*Bring your lawn chairs (extra chairs will be available), family and friends*

It will be helpful to have your RSVP and fun song request. Visit wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links

*Masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be followed. The parking lot will be closed to cars; parking will be available in the Moody lot and bank parking lots.*

Matthew 25 Fellowship

*Interested in putting your faith into action? Know any high school students committed to justice?*

Apply for the 2021 Matthew 25 Fellowship! This collaboration between Ladue Chapel and WGPC provides a paid opportunity for three high school students (rising juniors through recent graduates) from each congregation to spend the summer learning about inequities here in St. Louis, meeting the people and agencies working to address those needs, and engaging in that work themselves.

With an overarching Matthew 25 focus, each week of the 6 week fellowship will have a specific focus, and together we will unpack different areas of inequity, weaving in the intersectionality of each subject that adds to the overall disparities that lead to poverty.

*What's Matthew 25?*

**Matthew 25 congregations are committed to:**

- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

You can find the application and more information at laduechapel.org/matthew-25-fellowship

Questions? Contact Pastor Hannah at hmd@wgpc.org
Freestyle Pool Pass Donations

Webster Groves is a great place to live, work, and play—and our community is striving to be consciously inclusive. To this end, the Alliance for Interracial Dignity, Webster Groves School District, and Webster Rock Hill Ministries have joined forces to create the new Freestyle Pool Pass. The Freestyle Pass will remove barriers to the community swimming pool by providing free daily swim passes for individuals and families that require financial assistance.

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church is supporting this initiative with a gift of $1,000, funded through the Mission Endowment Fund and the Gibbs Fund to Promote Racial Harmony and Justice. If you would like to contribute individually, you can do so this week by check made payable to Webster Rock Hill Ministries and mailed or brought to 111 East Waymire, Webster Groves, 63119. Checks must include "Freestyle Pass Fund" in the memo line. You may also donate online, see the link on wgpc.org/get-involved.

Questions? Message freestyleswimpass@gmail.com.

Chancel Flowers

Would you like to provide Chancel flowers for a Sunday service? It's easy! One phone call to your favorite florist is all it takes! Contact Gay Moppert for more information: 314-324-5313 or mopfam@aol.com. The flowers beautify our service, then are deconstructed and delivered to our members in hospitals, nursing homes, etc. to brighten their day. Win-win!!

New Church Office Hours

*Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-3:00pm*

If you need to be in touch with a staff person for any reason, please note the new church office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm. It's always a good idea to call ahead to the person you need to speak with to be sure they will be available. For urgent and emergency matters, call a pastor at any time using their cell phone number.