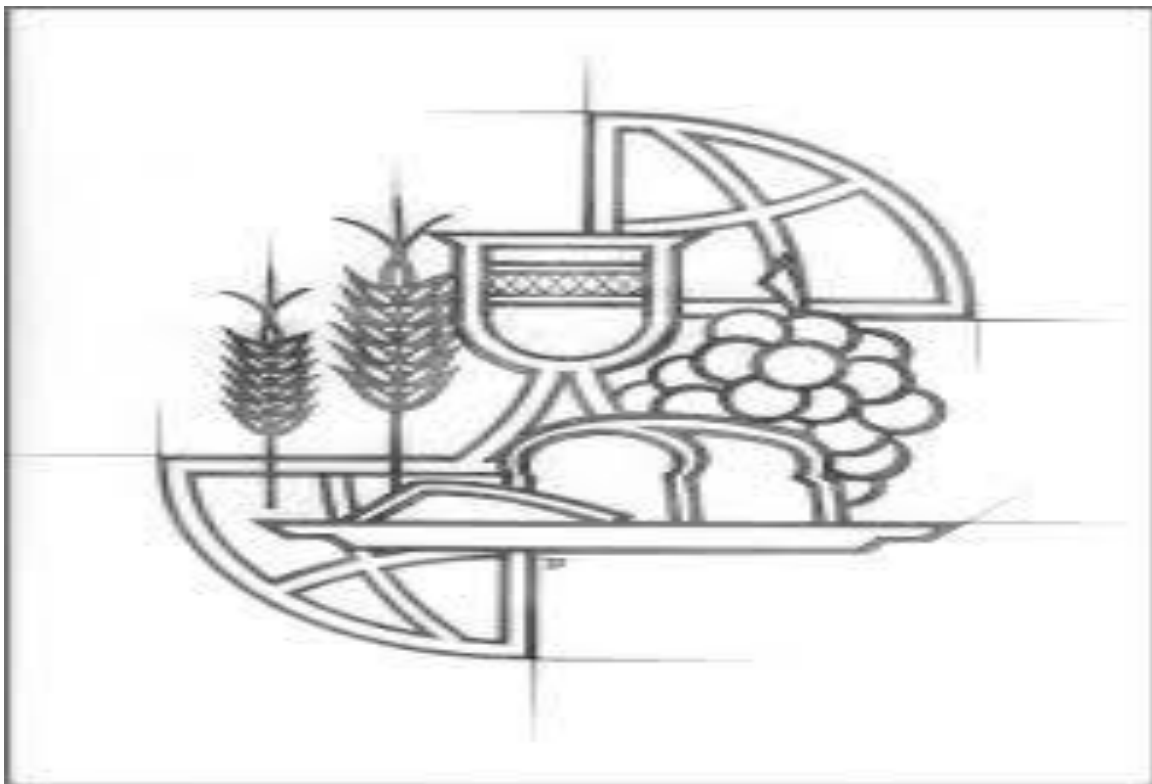


OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

67 Central Ave., Ocean View DE 19970

May 2, 2021



SILENT MEDITATION

Catherine of Siena (with thanks to Suzanne Guthrie)

And you, high eternal Trinity, acted as if you were drunk with love, infatuated with your creature. When you saw that this tree could bear no fruit but the fruit of death, because it was cut off from you who are life, you came to its rescue with the same love with which you had created it: you engrafted your divinity into the dead tree of our humanity. O sweet, tender grafting! You, sweetness itself, stooped to join yourself with our bitterness...

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

PLAYING OF THE CHIMES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT MEDITATION

A HYMN PRELUDE

BAPTISMAL PRAYER

(based on Galatians 3:27-28)

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ, have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer color or race, superior or inferior, no gendered roles; all of you are one in Christ Jesus!

Thanks be to God!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

pcusa website, adapted

L: We worship the God who inhabits our world – and indwells our lives.

C: We need not look up to find God; we need only look around: within ourselves, in community; in the eyes of another.

L: We need not listen for a distant thunder to hear God.

C: We need only listen to the music of life: the words of our friends; the voice of our neighbors; the rhythms of our hearts.

L: We worship the God who inhabits our world – and indwells our lives.

ALL: Here, and now, and altogether, let us worship God!

REFLECTION ON OUR COMMON HUMANITY

psalm 124, re-imagined

If it had not been for the Lord, who was on our side, let us now say:

When the pandemic rolled over us; when our time of separation and even of isolation was deepest, and loneliness might have swallowed us up; when anger burned within us; when resentment shriveled our hearts –

Then the flood would have swept us away;

The torrent would have gone over us, over us would have gone the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as a prey to coronavirus.

We have escaped like a bird; the snare is broken and we have escaped. Still we pray; still many are threatened: for safety from new or resurgent danger we trust in our God, who loves all peoples.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth!

CENTERING MUSIC

471: O Lord, Hear My Prayer
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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 8: 26-40

GOSPEL LESSON John 15: 1-8

L: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Source and Sequel

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Westminster Confession of Faith 6.079-080 (language updated)*

By faith, a Christian believes whatever is revealed in the Word to be true, as God speaks authoritatively in it; and they act differently in response to what any passage contains. They obey commands; tremble at consequences, and embrace the promises of God for this life and the next. But the greatest results of true faith are accepting, receiving and resting in Jesus Christ alone for justification, sanctification and eternal life, through God's covenantal grace.

This faith may vary, weak or strong; may be tested, even weakened; but will prevail, becoming true assurance in Christ, who is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. AMEN.

CONCERNS AND JOYS

Please email, text or call your concerns directly to Pastor Terry at:

Cell: 862-432-1196

Office: 302-539-3455

tdougherty@ovpc.org

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Friends, He was always the guest; the homeless One coming to the tables of sinners and scholars, insiders and outcasts, lovers of God and lovers of themselves. Today, at this table from which we have been estranged, on our long COVID fast, He is the Host, and we hear Him joyfully say: “ I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God” (Luke 22: 15-16). Come, then, at His bidding, to this table which is His; to which all are invited, from which no-one is excluded.

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.

We praise you, O God, that you – who brings us through every joy and sorrow – have brought us safe thus far through this terrible pandemic. We thank you that all your creatures, birds and fishes, cattle and behemoth, wind and rain, heat and cold, even this invisible enemy, in their way serve you, and are subject to you. We praise you that we, too, are given by you our freedom, and the privilege to serve you. Therefore we join with all creation to say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory; hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest; hosanna in the highest!

We praise you, O God, that your son, Jesus, served you as well, and in serving you served us, lifting up the poor, the broken, the sick, the alone; making of us one body. We thank you that He, on the night of His arrest, took from your creation bread and wine with which to dine with His disciples; to dine with us. Taking the bread, He blessed it, then broke it, and passed it to His disciples, saying “Take. Eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me”. In the same way, after supper, He took the cup, and having blessed it He shared it to His disciples, saying “This cup is the new covenant, sealed in my blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins; whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me”. Each time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we declare the Lord’s death till He comes again.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory!

THE LORDS PRAYER

Spirit, come – come and live in us: in this bread, in this cup, in your people; one with Christ in this place and every place, in this world and the world to come.

(we will participate together in bread, then cup)

The body of Christ, broken for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Christ, you have been our Shepherd, and have gathered us again as one. We thank you! You have become our peace, freeing us from the cares of the world. We thank you! You have claimed us as your very own. Gladly we are yours, in living and in serving! AMEN.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

606

DEDICATION

CHARGE

BLESSING

Now, friends, I entrust you to God, and to the message of God's grace; a message that is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance with all who are sanctified. Now may the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, and remain with you, this day and every day. Amen.



We respectfully remind you of the ongoing expenses of our ministry, and of our beautiful Campus. Please continue to donate. We can receive your donation by regular mail, online via PayPal or if you would like to drop your donation off, come to the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and drop it in the mailbox outside of the office.

“May our gifts be a source of light, in a world that has learned to love darkness.”

LITURGIST – Marlene Quinn

SCRIPTURE READER – Judy Reich

USHERS – Ollie Robling, Pam Price, Earlene DeFazio

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Provided by Herb and Kathy Sheetz in celebration of their wedding anniversary

Prayer List

Khaled & Nouha Dabaj, their
children, and mother Nohad
John Doherty
Alex Rhodes
Ainslie & Keith Peoples
Brian DeFazio
Angie Ritter

Laurie Linard
Tom Murray
Dick Regester
Rene' Heller
Elsie Young and Family
Rita Carbine
DeAndre Brown

Elaine Jackson
Dottie Nicholson
Kasey
Tracy Higdon
John Burris
David & Teresa Jednorski
Emma Meadows

Prayer requests will be kept on this list in the bulletin for three months unless the office hears otherwise.

If you need prayer for whatever reason, call Kathy Sheetz (302-539-2827) to initiate a chain of prayers. Please contact the office at 302-539-3455 or email office@ovpc.org to update the prayer list! Thank you!

Our Stephen Ministers are available if you are feeling especially distressed during this time, or facing a challenge that just seems to be too much to handle alone. Please call Elaine Smith for a referral.

Our live streaming services will begin at 9:20 with pre-service music with worship beginning at 9:25. If you happen to miss us live please visit our YouTube page so you can worship with the recorded version.

Christian Education

The partnership between Westminster Pres. in Wilmington and OVPC will present "The Syrian Livelihood Revival Project". Project leaders, Mary Vane and Michelle Butler, and our Middle East contact Roseangela Jarjour, will inform us about the new project which will assist our Syrian neighbors in owning livestock.

ZOOM MEETING ID: 847 7137 3578

PASSCODE: 070992

2021 OVPC Flower Chart

Looking to reserve a special Sunday for Celebration or Memorial flowers? Please contact the office 302-539-3455 or email office@ovpc.org. The following Sundays are still available.

June 27th

November 28th

December 12th

Syrian Livelihood Revival Project

OVPC continues its partnership with Westminster Wilmington for families in Syria and Lebanon. Donations are now being accepted for Syrian Livelihood Revival Project. The gift cards will be available after church on 5/2 and 5/9, at a table in the breezeway outside Memorial Hall.

Deacon's May Mission - PENTECOST OFFERING – Delaware State University DACA Students

The Mathew 25 Action Committee (MAC) of New Castle Presbytery, is encouraging continued support for 137 DACA* students at Delaware State University. We are pleased to be donating OVPC's portion of the Pentecost Offering to these State students.

You may recall that these students were brought to this country some time ago as young children and are currently permitted to stay. However, they are not permitted to access any loans for their college education. They have been either declared out-of-state students (with much higher tuition costs) or ineligible by some states' laws prohibiting their enrollment at state colleges or universities. Some private/corporate funding has picked up their tuition, but they are faced with additional fees that are hard to meet.

Some of the additional fees are: DACA 2-year renewal fees= \$495; Books= range between \$200-\$1,000; Access Codes (needed to complete homework, quizzes, & tests online)= range between \$100-\$300; and/or Graduate Program Tests= range between \$200-\$1,000.

Delaware State and Eastern Connecticut State were the first two universities to offer the Opportunity Scholarship Program for DREAMers**. The first class finished their freshman year with a group cumulative GPA of 3.7 and are now in their sophomore year. The newest class of 47 students began their studies this year.

These full-time students often hold 1-2 jobs but are still unable to make ends meet. Many receive little or no support from their families who live outside of the US. They work hard and want to succeed, so your generous monetary donations will help them live their DREAMs. While the Pentecost offering supports New Castle Presbytery's programs, a separate check can be made out to OVPC with DACA Students in the memo line. (Please call the office if you are dropping off.) For more information about these students, please visit www.desu.edu/student-life/dreamers.

* DACA = Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

**Dreamers = DACA students and children



Scriptures for Sunday May 2nd 2021

Acts 8: 26-40

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" [³⁷And Phillip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

John 15: 1-8

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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