

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 17, 2020
***Please stand as you are able.**

Prelude "I Am" by David Crowder and Ed Cash from CCLI
CCLI #11139581 WITH STREAMING

**Evoking the Mystery*

Lighting of the Candles and Presentation of the Communion

**Remembering Our Baptism: Make the sign of the cross*

**Opening Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" #686*

O God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm a lone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the o-p'ning day.

O God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guide while life shall last, And our eternal Home.

TEXT: Isaac Watts; based on Psalm 90

MUSIC: William Croft

ST. ANNE

C.M.

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**Call to Confession*

One: Let us confess to God and before one another our sins and especially our lack of faith and determination to actually follow Jesus.

**Prayer of Confession*

The Many: We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. We are quick to call ourselves Christians and to claim membership in your church but we are much slower when it comes to actually tuning our lives to the Gospel beat. We want to assure ourselves that we have a place in heaven with Jesus but we often fail to join him in his ministry to the poor, the rejected, and the despised. We look upon the crucified one and think that his message is all about us feeling good about ourselves. We have forgotten about loving our enemies and praying for those who mistreat us. Forgive us, Gracious God, and restore your Spirit within us that we may know the joy of faithful discipleship. Amen.

Silence for reflection of one's own individual time of confession.

**Assurance of Pardon*

One: When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us + all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news! Amen.

**Prayer of the Day*

The Many: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD

See the 'Celebrate' Insert for all the readings.

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Acts 17:22-31

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

Psalm

Psalm 66:8-20

The Spoken Response

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

⁸Bless our | God, you peoples; let the sound of | praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R**

¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us; you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us in- | to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings
and will pay | you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised | with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats. R**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you | who believe, and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God | with my mouth,
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil | in my heart, the Lord would | not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer, nor withheld unfailing | love from me. **R**

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading* **John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Gospel Response* ‘Halle, Halle, Hallelujah’

Halle halle, hal-le-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, hal-le-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, hal-le-lu-jah!

Hallehuhjah! Hal- le-lu- jah!

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Sermon

Rev. Curtis H. E. Zemencik, Pastor

**Sermon Hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". #139*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not.
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be. *Refrain*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with then thousand beside! *Refrain*

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm

MUSIC: William M. Runyan

FAITHFULNESS

11.10.11.10. with Refrain

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Our Response

Affirmation of Faith

Let us profess our faith **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer Concern

BOB STRAUB, JUDY KESSLER SMITH, TOM SMITH, BENNETT BINGAMAN, TONY GILLIGAN, CINDY PAUL, SANDY PAUL, JOHN SHAFFER, PAUL FEGER, SHARON COMES, RICH & JOAN BITTING, MADELYN MAURER, COVID-19 VICTIMS, FRONT-LINE WORKERS IN THIS PANDEMIC, THE FAMILY OF THE LATE HILDA BAHNER, FAMILY OF THE LATE TRUDY KLINGER, FAMILY AND CO-EMT'S N PARAMENCOS OF THE LATE JAMES MOORE,

Meditative Music Song Softly or Hummed

Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

He's my Savior, He's my Savior, He's my Savior, He's my Savior,
He's my Savior, He's my Savior, He's my Savior, He's my Savior.

He is worthy, He is worthy, He is worthy, He is worthy,
He is worthy, He is worthy, He is worthy, He is worthy.

I will praise Him, I will praise Him, I will praise Him, I will praise Him.
I will praise Him, I will praise Him, I will praise Him, I will praise Him.

TEXT: Jerry Sinclair

MUSIC: Jerry Sinclair

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ALLELUIA

L.M.

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Prayers of the People

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures (*local bodies of water may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offertory Service

Call to offering

One: The church is not a private club that we maintain for our own benefit. It is a mission outpost, constantly enlisting us and our resources for the spreading of good news and the increase of God's reign of love. Our offerings are one measure of how seriously we take our call as ambassadors for Christ. Let us reflect the many ways we can offer ourselves to your church community and sisters and brothers throughout the world. Those of us gathered here this morning will have the opportunity to place your monetary offering into the collection containers as you depart our gathering those of us who are worshiping virtually can present your monetary offerings by mailing them to the church addresses as posted with our bulletin this morning.

Musical Offertory "This Is Amazing Grace" by Phil Wickham

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**Prayer of Dedication of Offering*

Many: Generous and loving God, we dedicate to your service the work of our hands, the earnings of our time and efforts, and our vision for the future. May faith sustain us as we offer our best to you in praise and thanksgiving and joyous dedication. We seek to work for the reign of your truth and extension of the friendship granted to us in Jesus Christ. Let our offering bear fruit in the lives of all who are helped by it. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Many: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Sending

**Commission & Benediction*

Our worship is ended, but now our service begins! Go from this place for you are the body of Christ and the whole world awaits you; So live passionately, love faithfully, and celebrate every moment of your life from now until the finale! Our God of resurrecting grace goes with you. Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving; and the blessing of the holy Trinity, + one God, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

**Threefold Amen*

**Parting Hymn "O Jesus, I Have Promised" #676*

O Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me, My Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me, The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear:
My foes are ever near me, Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer, And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, The murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me, To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised To all who follow Thee,
That where Thou art in glory, There shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, My Master and my Friend.

TEXT: John E. Bode

MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann

ANGEL'S STORY

7.6.7.6.D.

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**Postlude*

Keeping You Posted

Everyone should have received communication by email or postal service, concerning the reopening of in-person worship. Please, read and respond, to the questions that are needed to be answered in order to help in getting back to “as normal” as possible with church worship, projects, events, studies.

Our Parish really wants to and needs to keep in contact with you!!! Sometimes, especially during emergency situations, as we have been experiencing, need to get you information quickly, such as a NEWS UPDATE or worship Cancellation. There are many of us who have cellular phones and EMAIL accounts but have been reluctant to share it with the church secretary for a group email situation. Please, we contract with you, not to use your email for other things except for church affairs. We will make sure that your address will be kept hidden and not shared but undisclosed. Thank you, Pastor Curtis.

We gather with heavy hearts today as we grieve the death of Hilda Bahner. Hilda departed this earthly life on Sunday, May 10 at home. As we know Hilda had a long battle with cancer. She was a long survivor of the disease. We pray for Kenny, Steve, Cindy and all family members.

Our individual churches and also the parish continue to have financial obligations to fulfill, so even though you may not be gathering at person to person worship, we still need to continue to give our tithes and offerings for the financial needs of our local congregation and the many ministries and outreaches we participate. Please mail your church donations to:

SALEM-ZION CHURCH OF PILLOW, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 116
PILLOW, PA 17080

OR

ZION STONE VALLEY CHURCH
1899 MOUNTAIN ROAD
DALMATIA, PA 17017

Let's send some cheer during this pandemic crisis by having a card shower for 3 Birthdays on June 3, Fran Eure, Barbara Troutman and Micha Jackson also remember our friends and family in long term facilities and those who reside at home..

Fran Eure
157 Mill Street, Box 479
Pillow, PA 17080

Barbara Troutman
148 Raspberry Street
POB 86
Pillow, PA 17080

Micha Jackson
POB 475
Pillow, PA 17080

Those who are in care facilities and home bound: Harold Hoffman (416), Premier Care at Susquehanna, 990 Medical Rd, Millersburg, PA 17061, Arlene Deppen, PO Box 166, South Pine Street, Pillow, Pa, 17080, Polly Martz, 706 Game Farm Road, Dalmatia, PA 17017, Anna Marie Ernest, Polk Assisted Living, Room #309, 301 North St, Millersburg, Pa, 17061. Bob & Nancy Straub, 146 Martz Road, Dalmatia, PA 17017, John Shaffer, 2614 Mountain Road, Dalmatia, PA 17017

Please join us in common mission, vision, and purpose by taking up the Strengthen the Church offering on May 31, 2020

We are amid a crisis that is demanding that we remain physically distant at a time when so many need the love and hope of a strong church to walk with them through an extraordinary global emergency. As many of us now present our ministry online, we pray that our love is being felt across technology, reaching those who need us most. Being church in new ways has demanded much of us as we have faced this challenging time together.

As we continue to explore new ways to be the church that people want in this time, your support of the Strengthen the Church offering on May 31 is now needed more than ever. The Strengthen the Church offering builds up the United Church of Christ by providing the financial resources to be a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. Funding supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation; all strategies needed as we work through this current challenge and beyond. Conferences and the National Setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

The Strengthen the Church offering ensures, together, we grow stronger

Strengthen the Church funds ministry that allows us to benefit from best practices, insights, and innovations across the life of the UCC. Because of your support, new churches emerge, congregations are revitalized, and leadership skills are enhanced. Many new and revitalized churches are leading the way now as we adapt to new technology in all our congregations.

Please continue to help the United Church of Christ expand its light by taking up the Strengthen the Church offering on May 31, 2020

