

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
May 17, 2020
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. It will be posted on the church's Facebook page and You Tube. Please check email the church for links to the recorded service. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.

Welcome and Announcements

The Elder for May is Susie Lewis, 379-6478

The Deacon for May is Joyce Counts, 405-1758

Call to Worship

Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, O peoples,
 let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living,
 and has not let our feet slip.
For you, O God, have tested us;
 you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net;
 you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;
 we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
 I will pay you my vows,
those that my lips uttered
 and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,
 with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. *Selah*

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
 and I will tell what he has done for me.
I cried aloud to him,
 and he was extolled with my tongue.
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
 the Lord would not have listened.
But truly God has listened;
 he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God,
 because he has not rejected my prayer
 or removed his steadfast love from me.

Opening Prayer

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.**

First Reading

John 14:15-21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This 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.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They 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 Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

Acts 17:22-34

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For 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. The 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, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From 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, so 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. For ‘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.’

Since 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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because 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."

When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the word of our God endures forever.

Thanks be to God!

Message

Getting to Know You ...

Elder Stephen Thiel

Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers for the People[†]

We have hope.

John writes in Revelation 21:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven

from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is now among the people.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the old order of things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also, he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.’

We pray for those who are lonely. We hope in the promise that the home of God will be among people: that God will dwell with us, that we will be his people and that God himself will be with us.

We mention in our hearts those we know who are lonely or isolated.

Pause

Lord you said, “See, I am making all things new.”
Amen, make all things new!

We pray for those who are crying; the sad, the depressed and the anxious.
We hope in the promise that God will wipe every tear from our eyes.

Pause

Lord you said, “See, I am making all things new.”
Amen, make all things new!

We pray for those who are experiencing the consequences of death, the bereaved and those who are mourning. We hope in the promise that death and mourning will be no more.

We mention in our hearts those we know who are affected by death and mourning

Pause

Lord you said, "See, I am making all things new."

Amen, make all things new!

We pray for those who are in pain, suffering from illness either physical or mental. We hope in the promise that crying and pain will be no more.

We mention in our hearts those we know who are ill or in pain.

Pause

Lord you said, "See, I am making all things new."

Amen, make all things new!

We pray for those who are thirsty for truth, love and grace; those who seek God and his life with earnest hearts. We hope in the promise that God will give water to the thirsty without cost from the spring of the water of life.

We mention in our hearts those we know who hunger and thirst for God.

Pause

Lord you said, "See, I am making all things new."

Amen, make all things new!

Lord, your words are trustworthy and true.

You are the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.

We pray all this in the powerful and hopeful name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray:

**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.

Blessing and Charge

Go out into the world in peace.

Love the Lord your God

With all your heart,

With all you soul,

And with all your mind,

And love your neighbor as yourself.

Amen.

† The Prayers of the People were written by Sara Hargreaves.