

# First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

11:00 a.m.

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

**Bolded words** indicate unison responses from the congregation.

## REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

*The following scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary and reflection are provided for meditation as we prepare for worship.*

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, and John 15:1-8

**Reflection on Acts 8:26-40:** *But Philip heard the voice of the Holy Spirit speak a different answer to the man's question. "What is to prevent me from being baptized?" asked the eunuch. "Absolutely nothing," whispered the Spirit. "Absolutely nothing." So the eunuch commanded the chariot to stop, and he was baptized right on the spot. Walls of prejudice and prohibition that had stood for generations can tumbling, blown down by the breath of God's Holy Spirit, and another man who felt lost and humiliated was found and restored in the wideness of God's grace in Jesus Christ.*

- Thomas G. Long, on the Fifth Sunday of Easter  
in *Daily Feast: Meditations from Feasting on the Word, Year B*

## WE GATHER

|                           |  |               |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|
| Organ Prelude             | <i>Prière</i> (from " <i>Pièces pour Harmonium ou Orgue</i> ") | César Franck  |
| Welcome and Announcements |  | Alex Esseniya |
| Moment for Mission        | YWCA/Wick Transitional Housing                                 |               |

## WE PRAISE

### \*Call to Worship

We gather this day in joy and Christian fellowship,

**for we are the church of Jesus Christ!**

We pray for the Holy Spirit to be among us,

**opening our hearts and minds to the worship of God!**

|            |   |           |
|------------|---|-----------|
| *Hymn #722 | <i>Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak</i> | CANONBURY |
|------------|---|-----------|

## WE CONFESS

### Call to Confession

When we come before God, we remember and proclaim who God is: merciful, just, holy, and loving. We must also remember who we are, and we are a people who have not always been the people God has called us to be. We have not always been merciful, just, holy or loving. So let us confess our sin, trusting in God's goodness to forgive us and create us anew for our lives ahead.

### Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you. We pursue success, realizing it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, knowing they are empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! In Christ, we are new creations. The old life is gone, thank God! A new life has begun. Know you are forgiven, and be at peace.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Gloria #581**

**Glory Be to the Father**  
*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

GREATOREX

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

The Peace of Christ be with you!  
And also with you!

**WE LISTEN**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Gracious God, may your Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to your words of love and grace this day. Amen.

**New Testament Lesson**

**John 15:1-8**

Pg. 878

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Epistle Lesson**

**1 John 4:7-21**

Pg. 991

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Psalter**

**Psalm 22**

Pam Root, Cantor

Hal H. Hopson

My God, why have you for - sak - en me?  
Why have you for - sak - en me?

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**Acts of the Apostles**

**Acts 8:26-40**

Pg. 893

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

**Acts of Faith: Then and Now**  
How do we tell the story?

Rev. Payne Warner

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**the Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**WE DEDICATE**

**Call for the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**

*As the Deer*  
The Motet Choir

Martin J. Nystrom

**\*Response of Thanksgiving #716** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* BEACH SPRING  
*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly Cross, grave's shattered door:  
gifted by you, we return to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, please accept these gifts and use them for the coming of your kingdom in this time and place. In gratitude for all we have and for your love for us, we pray with thanksgiving. Amen.

**Prayers of the People and 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 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. Amen.

**\*Hymn #300**

*We Are One in the Spirit* THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

**\*Benediction**

**Organ Postlude:**

*Take the Name of Jesus with You*

Albin C. Whitworth

**WE SCATTER TO CONTINUE OUR WORSHIP  
IN SERVING OTHERS**

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.  
May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.

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**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Payne Warner  
Alex Esseniya

**THE MUSIC TODAY**

Prof. Larry Harris, Director of Music/Organist  
The Motet Choir

**ALSO SERVING TODAY**

**Ushers:** John Einfalt, Wilma Miller  
**Facilities Staff:** David Phibbs

**WORSHIP NOTES**

Most of our liturgy today was written by the Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger for *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Weekly Reminders:

- We are still collecting items for **RAHAB Ministries**. Please place donations in the box in the Narthex.
- Please submit **prayer requests** on the cards in the pew racks or by emailing [pastor@fpcyo.org](mailto:pastor@fpcyo.org).
- Remember to sign the **Friendship pads**. They help keep track of people who may need assistance.
- Coin offerings go to support the **Red Door Café** at **St. John's Episcopal Church**.
- We will next celebrate **Communion** on **Sunday, May 19** for Pentecost.

### Community Events:

- **Spaghetti Dinner:** Our Scout Troop, Troop 55, will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner in the Helen Chapel on **Sunday, May 5, from Noon – 5:00 p.m.** It is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. All are welcome, and please share with friends who would like to support our scouts.
- **Taste of the Faiths** will be on Thursday, May 16, from 5:30-7pm at St. Charles Parish Hall in Boardman.

### Prayer Requests:

- Bob Fitch
- Leeann Comstock
- Martin Goss
- Terry Murray
- Rick Benson
- Bridget Benson
- Cindy Milicich
- Barb Altman