

OUR CHURCH FAMILY AT WORSHIP

6th Sunday of Easter

Beauty Guides the Way

May 22, 2022

11:00 A.M.

TIME OF GATHERING: Read through Announcements, Pray over Concerns, Meditate on Celebrations and the wonder and grace of God, and Thanksgiving to God....
Please sign the red pads and pass it onto the next person in your pew.

PRELUDE *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* Robert Lau

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* No. 92

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Sisters and brothers, let us rejoice in the vision of John:
I saw a new heaven and a new earth!

The old heaven and the old earth and the sea had disappeared.

People: Then I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, descending from God out of heaven, beautiful as a bride adorned for her husband.

Liturgist: A great voice thundered from heaven:

"See, God is making God's home with mortals!

God will live with them. They will be God's people.

People: God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

There will be no more death, or sorrow, or crying, or pain.

All of this - gone forever!"

All: Thanks be to God. Hallelujah, Amen.

OPENING PRAYER (seated)

**Eternal God, our Alpha and Omega,
our beginning and our end,
we have gathered in this time and at this place to worship You.
In Your time, You created all things,
and wove into their fabric a yearning for fulfillment in You.
It is this yearning within us which has pulled us here this morning.
Take these moments, O Lord of time and space,
and complete them in us, through Your Holy Spirit.**

**May our labor bring forth a new creation in You.
This is Your hour, Christ Jesus,
help us to make the most of each precious moment.
For in Your name we have gathered, and we pray. Amen**

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Revelation 21:10, 22 - 22:5*

Liturgist: The Word of God for God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE *Hallelujah! What a Savior*(vs 3) No. 165

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This world would deny you, Lord, and rely on human wisdom in their search for answers to questions they have yet to ask, but we will praise you, and exalt your name, for we know that you are Alpha, the beginning of all things, and Omega, the end, and all that is between.

We have known your healing.

We have known your provision,

We have known your victory.

Our sorrow has turned into dancing and our tears to songs of joy. We shall praise you ever more. Amen

CHOIR ANTHEM *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. Hal Hopson

GOSPEL READING *John 14:23-29*

MESSAGE *"Beauty Guides the Way"* Connor Felty

*HYMN *O Holy City, Seen of John* (vs. 1,3,4,5) No. 726

AN INVITATION TO PRAY

+Prayer of Confession (unison)

Eternal God, the beginning and the ending. Hear us when we wonder where You are in our time. Because we don't understand what the end times will be we've given up on your promises of a new earth, a new city. We confess that often we ignore the evils of idolatry, violence, economic exploitation, faithlessness and injustice. Strengthen our hope for the new creation and show us how it is to guide our way of being, now. Amen.

+Pastoral Prayer
+Lord's Prayer (trespasses)
+Sung Response *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* (vs 3) No. 420

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *The Calm of Heaven* George Frederic Handel
*Congregational Response *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* (vs. 5) No. 315
"Alleluia!" now we cry to our King immortal,
Who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal;
"Alleluia!" with the Son, God the Father praising,
"Alleluia!" yet again to the Spirit raising.

*HYMN *O Day of God, Draw Nigh* No. 730

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Behold: there is a new heaven, a new earth and a new city, where the river of life flows, where the tree of life bears fruit in every season.
This heaven, this city, this river, this tree are a vision of your life reborn, restored, and renewed.
People: Thanks be to God!

*ORGAN RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Rigaudon* André Campra
* * *
*All stand if possible +All kneel or sit to pray

We thank all those who helped with the service this morning.
Liturgist: Rowena Fink

Mission Statement for the Church of the Good Shepherd

We are committed to:

- ▶ Connecting persons to Jesus Christ
- ▶ Connecting with broken and hurting people
- ▶ Challenging persons to grow and celebrate their relationship with Jesus Christ
- ▶ Equipping persons and partnering with them to serve in God-powered ministry



Reverend Janet Sadel, Lead Pastor
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Reverend Lisa Flory, Pastor
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TRADITIONAL WORSHIP f
Celebration of Faith



Beauty Guides the Way

May 22, 2022

6th Sunday of Easter

11:00 A.M.

1500 Quentin Road / Lebanon, PA 17042
church: 717-272-7741 / www.umcogs.org

1. Revelation is a coded message to 7 first-century churches about the dangers of aligning with the Roman Empire and the importance of remaining faithful to the Lamb. It is not a future-telling book about the end times.
2. Revelation So Far:
The nations and kings of the world have chosen to build their societies on the foundations of idolatry, violence, and economic exploitation. This is how it always has been, and how it always will be in our present world.
3. Four Dimensions of Beauty in the New Jerusalem:
 - a. God’s Beauty (Rev 21:22-23, 22:4-5) — God always comes to us on Earth. When God is fully known, there is no need for the sun or moon to give light.
 - b. Physical Beauty (Rev 21:15-21) — The New Jerusalem is a physical reality, boasting great beauty in its symmetrical dimensions and colorful gems.
 - c. Social Beauty (Rev 21:24-27) — In contrast to the social ugliness of the rest of Revelation, here we have a shocking portrait of kings and nations praising God in their own distinctive ways.
 - d. Life as Beauty (Rev 22:1-3) — The curse of hard labor, physical pain, and separation from the tree of life is lifted; in the New Jerusalem, all are quenched by the waters of life and fulfilling work.
4. This picture is not literally what the afterlife will look like, but motivates us to faithfulness by showing the beauty of a society built around God’s reign.
5. Take time this week to notice how you experience beauty—sensations in your body, fullness of heart, the desire to live forever in that small moment, the persistence of goodness in the midst of life. Trust those experiences are from the Spirit. Make life beautiful for others.

SUNDAY

- 8:30 / 9:45 - Contemporary [Worship Center]
- 9:45 - Sunday School
- 11:00 - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]
- 11:00—Confirmation Class [Forge]
- 11:00 - Parenting SS Class [Lounge]
- 4: 00 - Private Hall, yth rm, Gthrng Area
- 6:00—Middle School Youth Night

MONDAY

- 10am—Staff Meeting
- 4-8—Private [sanctuary]
- 6:00 - CR Praise band rehearsal [WC]

TUESDAY

- 7AM - Private [gathering area]
- 6:30pm - Life’s Healing Choices [Ed Wing]
- 7:00 - Reading While Black [Pavilion]

WEDNESDAY

- 5:30-8:00 - High School Yth [Hall/Forge]
- 7:00 - Celebrate Recovery
- 7:00—Traditional Choir [choir rm/sanctuary]

THURSDAY

- 5:00/5:30—Contemporary/Traditional design teams not meeting tonight.

FRIDAY

- 7:00 pm - Life’s Healing Choices [Lounge]

SATURDAY

- 9:00 - Contemporary Worship Rehearsal

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