



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 487

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
In joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
From depth to height reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist—Rick Rugel

Leader: Bless the Lord, O people, sing!

People: Let the sound of praise ring out.

Leader: Come and hear what the Lord has done,

People: the Lord who has made everything!

Leader: As a hen gathers her brood under her wings, God desires to gather us together.

People: Gather us, O God. We are here to worship and sing your praise!

WORSHIP SONG

“Lord Reign in Me”

Over all the earth You reign on high
Every mountain stream every sunset sky
But my one request Lord my only aim
Is that You reign in me again

Chorus:

*Lord reign in me
Reign in Your power
Over all my dreams
In my darkest hour
You are the Lord
Of all I am
So won't You reign in me again*

Over every thought over every word
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord
'Cause you mean more to me than any earthly thing
So won't You reign in me again (*Chorus*)

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 135:15-18

Liturgist—Rick Rugel

¹⁵The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ¹⁶They have mouths, but they do not speak; they have eyes, but they do not see; ¹⁷they have ears, but they do not hear, a nose, but there is no breath in their mouths. ¹⁸Those who make them and all who trust them shall become like them.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

WORSHIP SONG

"We Bow Down"

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life
Lord of the land and the sea
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time
And Lord of all Lords you will be

We bow down and we worship You Lord (3X)
Lord of all Lords you will be

You are King of creation and King of my life
King of the land and the sea
You were King of the heavens before there was time
And king of all Kings you will be

We bow down and we crown you the King (3X)
King of all Kings You will be.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

(We invite all children through 5th grade to come up to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message for them. They will then be dismissed to their Sunday School teacher, or if you prefer they may return to their seats with you.)

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Alleluia! Praise the Lord Who Reigns on High!"

Alleluia! Come, with voices raised, singing God's eternal praise!
Come, and bring your holy offering. Praise the Lord, our living King!
Come, before God's holy righteous face, in this chorus take your place.
Sing amid the joyous mortal throng, sing the everlasting song!

Alleluia, alleluia! Lift your voice and glorify!

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the Lord Who reigns on high, on high.

Sing to God Whose love is measureless; sing of joy and faithfulness.

Alleluia! Let your song resound in a never-ending round.

Alleluia, alleluia! Lift your voice and glorify!

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the Lord Who reigns on high, on high.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

Sing alleluia, alleluia! Sing alleluia!

On that final day our song shall be, "Jesus lives and so shall we!"

Heaven's halls shall ring with voices raised singing songs of endless praise!

Alleluia, alleluia! Lift your voice and glorify!

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the Lord Who reigns on high, the Lord Who reigns on high!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist—Rick Rugel

No one is lost to God. All our welcome to witness and receive God's saving grace. Let us confess our sins before our Savior.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we are quick to criticize, quick to judge, quick to blame. We fail to offer others the same grace we receive from you. We hold ourselves up as superior and fail to address the patterns of dominance we perpetuate. Forgive us. Help us seek understanding and compassion. Help us accept the love you offer us and share your love with others. Amen.

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Liturgist—Rick Rugel

Christ transforms, redeems and renews. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

(Please stand if you are able)

RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE

"Gloria Patri"

**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.**

(You may be seated)

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

OFFERTORY

Suzanne Zak Carver

(Please place your offering in the plate in the Narthex as you enter/exit the Sanctuary.)

(Please stand if you are able)

DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the Good News of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, “What does this pretentious babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.” (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new. ²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual 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^[b] he made all peoples 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^[b] and perhaps fumble about 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.’ ²⁹“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.

(Continued)

³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ 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.” ³² When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed, but others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³ At that point Paul left them. ³⁴ But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Faith at the Areopagus”
Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

(Please stand if you are able)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

HYMN NO. 543

“Abide with Me”

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see.
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies:
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

CHARGE

Go out into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold onto what is good. Render no one evil for evil. Uplift the fainthearted. Support the weak. Laugh with those who laugh and mourn with those who mourn. Do this in a spirit of joy and appreciation for you are God's child. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God, who creates, redeems, and sustains, keep you steadfast in faith, buoyant in hope, and abounding in love. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.



Prayer Concerns: Tom Gagliardi (friend of Dorothy Smith)
Ted Lioumis and Era Papanicolaou (friends of Dalia Lucas)
Diane Raab
John Roushey
Joan Becker
Susan Bubb (friend of Dalia Lucas)
Family of Robert Schofield (friend of Wendy Wirsch)
Audrey Rauch (sister of Darlene Baker)
Sharon Burrink (friend of Wendy Wirsch)
Rima Mironas (mother of Dalia Lucas)
John & Angela Norvaisas (cousins of Dalia Lucas)
Joe O'Neill (brother of Mike O'Neill)
Robin Haug
Lily Meade
Jerry Furr (friend of Barb & John Landis)
Donnie Fiedler (cousin of Sandee Wilson)
Russ Levo (friend of Sandee Wilson)
Martha Post (friend of Wendy Wirsch)
David Rankin (brother of Deborah Kapinos & Paul Rankin)
David Rankin (nephew of Deborah Kapinos & Paul Rankin)

Ongoing Concerns: Charles Sutton
Dorothy Moritz
Karen Meade
Debbie Edwards
Joan George
Kerry Zimmerman
Debbie Watson



PULPIT FLOWERS

The pulpit flowers are given by Jan and George Rounds to the glory of God and in honor of Keith Rounds on his birthday; and given by Lynne and Warren Friedel in loving memory of their mothers—Anne Weitzmann and May Friedel. Deacons Peg Kaelin & Sandee Wilson will deliver the flowers. Each week the flowers can be a bright moment for someone needing prayers or praise. If anyone in the congregation has a person in mind to give the pulpit flowers to, please contact Cindy Anderson at 215-672-3219.

Pulpit flowers are needed for May 28th, June 4th and 11th. If you are interested in donating pulpit flowers, please contact Dorothy Smith at 215-343-1142.



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Come and go in depth into that week's scripture to learn not only what the passage is about, but how it is relevant in your life. You can come and just listen or, ask any questions you would like. Newcomers are always welcome!

WALKING TOUR WITH BEN FRANKLIN

Take a walk through colonial Philadelphia with the man who knows the city just as well as he knew it over 250 years ago. Hear facts and stories not heard anywhere else. Visit the places where Ben Franklin made a name for himself as a printer, inventor, and statesman. Come along with Ben to see the sites of historic Philadelphia. The date for the tour is Saturday, May 20th. The tour begins at 11 AM at the First Bank of the United States and lasts about 1 ½ hours. Many of us are taking the train to the Jefferson Station and then either taking the EL or walking to the First Bank. The cost for the tour is \$35 per person and is a fundraiser for the William Tennent House Association. If you would like to tour with Ben Franklin, please contact Wendy Wirsch at 267-261-1274 or wbw42451@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 16TH thru JULY 19TH
6—8 PM



Adult Mission Team – We are looking for volunteers to assist in rehabbing houses in Phoenixville this spring with our partner Good Works.

Good Works is a Christian nonprofit organization whose mission is: Transforming lives by repairing homes for low-income families and sharing the hope found in Jesus Christ. Our services are currently offered to homeowners in central & northern Chester County, PA. Repairs are provided at no cost to the homeowners and volunteers do most of the work.

Do you have construction/handyman skills? Perfect – your help and guidance is needed. No construction skills but are willing to follow directions and learn new skills? Perfect - there is work for you too. We have all sorts of skill levels. The tasks are varied so we can match people to the available tasks. There is always a supervisor to guide us.

Our group typically works at the same site or sometimes we split into two groups so you will always be with someone from our team.

We have four dates planned and you can sign up for one date or all four dates:

Thursday 5/18

Thursday 6/15

If you can't volunteer but would like to donate to Good Works please visit –

<https://www.goodworksinc.org/>

Contact Dave or Darlene Baker if interested @ dbaker@dbrobertsgroup.com in learning more about this volunteer opportunity. Example – Darlene has NO construction skills but has helped many times and learned lots of new skills.

Thanks to all for Making a Difference. Join us for the fun and fellowship and giving back.



5th Annual WKM Golf Outing

(Benefiting West Kensington Ministry)



TOMORROW!

Best Ball / Scramble Format

9:45 a.m. Shot-Gun Start

(Sign-In/Registration starting at 8:45 AM)

~ Five Ponds Golf Club ~

Donation: \$175.00 per player

Includes: Lunch
Greens Fees and Cart
Putting Contest
Hole Prizes, Door Prizes
Post-Tournament Reception
A fun day to benefit a Critical Urban Ministry

Support Opportunities: Sponsor a Hole - \$250
Sponsor or Donate a Prize - \$400 or prize value
Sponsor WKM logo Golf Balls - \$900
Sponsor or Co-Sponsor Golf Outing - \$7500
Sponsor or Co-Sponsor Lunch - \$1500
Sponsor or Co-Sponsor Reception - \$2500
Silent Auction - Bid or Donate an Auction Item
Purchase Mulligans, 50/50 Raffle

To Register: go to www.westkensingtonministry.com

Click on the GREEN "Golfer Registration" icon
It's near the bottom of the home page

More info? Contact: Chad Pilling – pillingcb@gmail.com



THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Food & Fellowship 10 am Outside

MONDAY—WKM Golf Outing 8:45 am Five Ponds Golf Club

TUESDAY—WholyFit 7 pm Auditorium

WEDNESDAY—Bible Study 10 am Auditorium

THURSDAY— Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Room
—Adult Mission Team rehabbing houses Phoenixville

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Food & Fellowship 10 am Auditorium

Church Staff

Rev. Mark Lyndaker-Studer, Pastor
Donna Mazeika, Director of Children & Youth
Rev. Sameh Shaker, Pastor of Visitation
Dr. Suzanne Zak Carver, Director of Music
Keith Rounds, Contemporary Music
Marianne Tierney, Business Manager
Cheryl Overton, Church Administrator

Remembering that the members of Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church are the ministers and missionaries of our faith community, our Pastoral Staff and Support Team provide leadership and specialized ministries.

WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE:
www.nwpc.net



ON YOUR PHONE:

- Open the camera on your phone
- Point the camera at the QR code
- Follow phone prompts to give via credit card



ENVELOPE:

1401 Meetinghouse Road,
Warminster PA 18974