

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE CHURCH GATHERS ...

When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the Worship of God.

PRELUDE Es spricht der Unweisen Mund wohl Johann Michael Bach
The Fool Says in His Heart, “There Is No God.” (Psalm 14)

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Micah 6:6,8

Leader: With what shall we come before the Holy One, and bow ourselves before God on high?

People: **What does the Holy One require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God?**

ALL: **Let us worship the Lord our God!**

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

***HYMN NO. 150** (blue hymnal) Come, Christians, Join to Sing *Madrid*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Eternal God,
Permit us the space to take a good look at ourselves, to be thankful for what we have, to consider who we are, and to recognize all that you have made us to be.
Help us to acknowledge the wrongs we have done, the people we have hurt, and the times we have wasted.
Don’t let us wallow in self-pity. Don’t let us hang on to old grudges. Teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven.
As your beloved children, forgiven, renewed, redeemed, help us to walk in your paths, to be led by your Spirit, and to abide in your love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

***KYRIE ELEISON** Healey Willan

(Congregation singing – music is found on the inside cover of the red hymnal)

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.
(First part: women; second: men; third: all)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

***RESPONSE** Celtic Alleluia *(sing twice)* Fintan O’Carroll

SCRIPTURE READING

John 17:1-19

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

Cameron Sears

Children age 4 through 2nd grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children’s Worship. A nursery is available during the entire service for infants through age 3.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:6-11,15-17,21-26

SERMON

“Theological Discernment in an Age of Uncertainty”

or

“Pray, Flip a Coin, and Get On With It...” Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

***HYMN NO. 361** (blue hymnal) How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison)

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

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. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ... The Lord’s Prayer

(During the Prayers of the People there will be a time of silence. You are invited to use this time for personal reflection, confession, thanksgiving, and prayer. You are also invited to reflect on the following prayer.)

My Lord, God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But, I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always,

though I may seem to be lost in the shadow of death

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

–Thomas Merton

THE OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle.

If you would like to receive our newsletter or more information about the church, include your address, phone number and email address. Though many of us contribute electronically or by a check in the mail, your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(9:00) The Lord’s Name Is Praised Maurice Greene
The Lord’s name is praised, from the rising up of the sun unto the going down of the same. The Lord is high above all heathen, and his glory above the heav’ns.

Psalm 113:3-4

Bettie McDavid Mason, Soprano
Margaret Harrison, Piano

(11:00) Sing, Joyous Christians Antonio Lotti
Sing, joyous Christians! Sing forth your alleluias! Christ, our Redeemer, from death is risen, Alleluia! Death and hell are conquered, Alleluia! Christ, have mercy! Alleluia!

Sing, joyous Christians! Sing forth your alleluias! Christ is ascended on high to heaven, Alleluia! Sitteth at the right hand of the Father, Alleluia! Christ, have mercy! Alleluia!

English text by Walter E. Buszin

***AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology No. 514 (red hymnal) *Old Hundredth*
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**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***HYMN NO. 142** (blue hymnal) (11:00) All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name! *Coronation*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 586** (blue hymnal) (9:00) Amen Danish melody

***POSTLUDE** Praeambulum in C, WV 30 Heinrich Scheidemann

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP here today.

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Cindy Spangler and Dave Dupper

CARE TEAM COORDINATORS FOR MAY: Sue Byerly and Judy Jorden

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AND HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES (11:00): Max Yates and Ben Hatmaker

GREETERS (11:00): Tom and Georgann Byerley

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP:

(9:00) Childcare through age 5

(11:00) Angela Grobe, Clara Oakes

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: (11:00) Chancel Choir

SENIOR USHER: Tim Ryan

USHERS:

(9:00) Bill Wiesehuegel and David Woodall

(11:00) Bob Murrian, Scott Porter, Ashley Porter, Laura Dupper, Mark Potocik

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given by Barbara Cline to the glory of God and in memory of Jennings Cline.

OUR THANKS to Bettie Mason and Margaret Harrison for their enrichment of our worship this morning and to Bettie for her notes on Maurice Greene.

MAURICE GREENE (1696-1755), son of a clergyman, was born in London and became a choirboy at St. Paul’s, where he also studied organ. As an organist he served first at St. Paul’s and then at the Chapel Royal, later becoming Professor of Music at Cambridge University. Greene is particularly well known for his extended verse anthems, such as “Praise the Lord, Ye Servants,” a solo section of which is heard in our 9:00 a.m. service today. In this piece he takes full advantage of the opportunities the text affords for word-painting: not just the obvious “rising up” and “going down” of the melodic line (or the ascending notes of “above the heav’ns”) but also some fanfare-like motifs for “praised” and ornamentation for “glory.”

A STATED SESSION MEETING is today at 12:15 p.m. in the McKinnon Room.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY meets tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. in the SHOW room.

STEPHEN MINISTERS meet for CE and Supervision tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER: Our next WOW dinner will be on Tuesday, May 22 at 6:00 p.m. The location will be announced soon. Please RSVP to Kathy Shilling.

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST: Start your day off right with breakfast, fellowship and a short study session. On Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 a.m. we will meet in the McKinnon Room for breakfast provided by Buz Johnson and a lesson led by Buran Phillips. If you want to review the lesson ahead of time, just pick up a copy in the church office or ask the office to email the lesson to you. Everyone is welcome.

THE PENTECOST OFFERING is used to meet the needs of children at risk, youth and young adults. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for more information. Forty percent of your gifts are used locally, with the remainder supporting General Assembly ministries and Young Adult Volunteer opportunities. The offering will be collected through Pentecost Sunday, May 27.



OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE begins Sunday, May 27th and continues through Sunday, September 2nd. We will have one worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Smokies Baseball

Westminster Night at the Smokes is Saturday, June 9th at 6:15 p.m. To reserve tickets, please call the church office or sign up in the Schilling Gallery by Monday, June 4th. Tickets are \$8 per person. Meal vouchers are \$5 for children and \$6 for adults. Tickets and meal vouchers must be paid for in advance. Car pools will leave the church by 5:00 p.m. and we'll all meet at the gate.

Adult Sunday School

Parents' Class

Library

Join us as we conclude our study of *Grace Based Parenting* by Dr. Tim Kimmel."

Bible Class

Prayer Room

Continuing our trip through the minor prophets, today we will study the book of Hosea. In the Bible, people's names have meaning, but most especially in Hosea! Join us for reading and discussion in this fascinating book!

Faith Growth

McKinnon Room

NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion.

Vacation Bible School

for All Ages

June 24 - June 27

5:45-7:45 p.m.

Back by popular demand... Vacation Bible School will be in the evening for all ages, and will begin with dinner. Our children's curriculum is ReNew, with a focus on stewardship of our creation at home, in our community and around the globe. Preschoolers will be in one classroom, and Elementary grades will rotate between Self, Community and World centers. Middle School youth will assist in the classrooms and High School youth will have their own class and possible field trips. Adult will enjoy a different speaker and subject each evening.

As you know, it takes many volunteers to make it a great experience for all.

Volunteer Sign-ups:

Preschool Leader: _____

Preschool Shepherd: _____

Elementary Shepherds (3): _____

High School Leader: _____

Decorations (will be using all recycled or reclaimed material): _____

Attendance Sign-ups:

Adults: _____

Nursery (up to age 3): _____

Preschool ages 3-5 (potty trained): _____

School Grades (2011-2012 school year):

First and Second grade: _____

Third and Fourth grade: _____

Fifth grade: _____

Middle School Helpers: _____

High School: _____

Please fill out and place in the offering plate.