

Memorial Service

Olivet United Methodist Church

May 22, 2021

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

GATHERING WORDS OF GRACE

(John 14:1, John 11:35-36)

In his dying, Christ destroyed our death.
In his rising, Christ restored our life.

On this day we remember the words of comfort Jesus shared with his disciples:
“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

We also remember that at the grave of his friend, “Jesus wept.”
May we see how he loves us in the waters of Christ’s tears.

Friends, just as we put on Christ in the waters of Baptism,
So in Christ may we be clothed with glory.

* OPENING PRAYER

God of comfort and peace, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. As we gather to worship you, we also bear witness to those who have gone onto their eternal dwelling place. Enable us to weep with those who mourn this day, and to respond with your generous and abiding love. Amen.

*GOSPEL READING

John 14:1-6

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.
If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself,
so that where I am, there you may be also.
And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him,
“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”
Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

SERMON

*Bishop Peggy Johnson
"Let Not Your Heart be Troubled"*

SPECIAL MUSIC
with Thee"

"Just a Closer Walk

*Mr. John Coakley, Minister of Music at West Lawn UMC
Mr. Christopher Rodgers, Organist*

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

One: God of us all, we remember and give thanks that you sent us a Son, who knows our griefs and sorrows. As we celebrate the names of your saints who have gone onto their eternal dwelling place, we find comfort in the tears of Jesus who weeps with us in our grief.

Many: We see how he loves us.

One: For those who are mourning the loss of a loved one dear to them,

Many: Jesus weeps.

One: For those who are weary of the news of another goodbye,

Many: Jesus weeps.

One: For those who are frustrated by yet another experience that must be rescheduled or adjusted,

Many: Jesus weeps.

One: For those of us hungry for an end to a global pandemic and a return to something familiar,

Many: Jesus weeps.

One: For those of us who now fear the joy of a large crowd, the hug of a loved one, or the handshake of a new acquaintance,

Many: Jesus weeps.

One: May our collective tears be an offering of love for those who are struggling this day and may our witness to the Resurrection help others find their way towards the way, the truth, and the life.

CELEBRATING THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

As we gather each year for Annual Conference sessions, one of our most sacred traditions is to remember and honor those who have passed away since last we gathered. We read aloud the names of bishops, clergy, clergy spouses, and laity with a special connection to the Annual Conference who have entered the church triumphant. As we read the names, a bell will sound and a candle will be lit as we remember them this day. The candles will float in water, signifying the way in which Christ named them in Baptism on earth and now they are experiencing the gift of eternal life in their eternal dwelling place.

To the families of those we remember: We welcome you and offer you our heartfelt condolences. When the name of your loved one is called, you are asked to please stand (as able). As you exit the sanctuary, please take a glass candle holder and one of the floating candles used during today's service as a gift to remember your loved one this day.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Passing</i>
<i>CLERGY:</i>	
<i>The Rev. Larry L. Light</i>	<i>10/17/2020</i>
<i>The Rev. Theodore C. Mefferd</i>	<i>10/30/2020</i>
<i>The Rev. Donald E. Ray</i>	<i>12/4/2020</i>
<i>The Rev. Margaret Muller Trice</i>	<i>12/13/2020</i>
<i>The Rev. Thomas H. Jenkins</i>	<i>1/5/2021</i>
<i>The Rev. Bonnie Alleman</i>	<i>1/23/2021</i>
<i>The Rev. Olivet J. Brown</i>	<i>1/28/2021</i>
<i>The Rev. G. Clarke Chapman</i>	<i>2/11/2021</i>
<i>The Rev. Harry F. Wooters</i>	<i>2/14/2021</i>
<i>The Rev. Nancy S. Curtis</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>The Rev. Theodore Loder</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>

CLERGY SPOUSE:

<i>Mrs. Joyce A. Watson</i>	<i>11/5/2020</i>
<i>Mrs. Christine Virginia Cherry</i>	<i>12/27/2020</i>
<i>Mrs. Eulala Stinger</i>	<i>1/22/2021</i>
<i>Mrs. Sarah Proud Bair</i>	<i>1/30/2021</i>
<i>Mrs. Faye Stauffer</i>	<i>3/28/2021</i>
<i>Mrs. LaRue Spencer</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Mrs. Ruth Brodhead</i>	<i>5/17/2021</i>

CELEBRATION THE MINISTRIES AND LEGACIES
OF CHURCHES THAT HAVE CLOSED

One: We give thanks to God for the ministries of all churches throughout the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, especially for the ministries of the congregation whose season of closure we remember this day.

We give thanks for the Gospel that has been proclaimed,
For the waters of Baptism received,
For the comfort and peace that was experienced,
And for the lives that have been transformed.

Many: We rejoice that in dying, Christ destroyed our death, and in rising Christ restored our life. We mourn the closure of this congregation and yet we also wait with expectation for the new life ready to be born.

As we gather each year for Annual Conference sessions, we recognize that ministry ends in one location, continues in another, and is birthed in yet another. We read aloud the name of the churches that have closed, and we give thanks for their ministries. As each church's name is read, a bell will ring and a candle will be lit in their honor. During this time offer God gratitude for these congregations, especially if you have served or attended these churches.

The Names

Perkasie and Norristown: Asbury

SPECIAL MUSIC
Loved"

"God So

*West Lawn United Methodist Church Worship Team
Pat Kenna, Director of Contemporary Music*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites all to His table:
all who love him,
all who seek to find comfort,
all who seek to experience reconciliation with God and one another.
Therefore, let us make our humble confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not trusted in your promises,
We have doubted your love,
We have broken our covenant with you,
And we have not heard the cries of those in need.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, hear the good news:

Christ has forgiven our sins.

Christ calls us to a new life.

Christ will lead us into righteousness as he is our way, our truth, and our life.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Let not your hearts be troubled.

But they are troubled and heavily burdened.

Don't be afraid.

But we are afraid and fear disaster.

Believe in me.

We do believe but please help our unbelief.

God of the whirlwind,

who invites us into the center of the storm,
calm our fainting hearts.

When our whole world seems to be crashing down

You promise to hold all the pieces together.

When our lives are filled with nothing but chaos,
you hover over all of it and become creative.

Only You have the ability to work all things together for good,
even in the deep muddy messes where we find ourselves

You allow us to wipe away our tears,
and find our smiles again.

You bring back to our memories,
blessed assurance, renewing our strength.

You cause us to laugh again, to praise Your name again,
to find the fullness of life again.

Thank You for caring for our troubled hearts.

Thank You for easing all our fears,

Thank You for giving us someone to believe in.

Hear us now as we sing Your praises with all the choirs of earth
and all the company of heaven, saying:

Sing joy to our Lord!
Strength in the Rock who saves us!
Thanks for God's presence!

God is our strength and our song
and Christ has become our salvation.
The message of Christ's life is this: "don't be afraid."
When oppression comes, "don't be afraid."
When the storms of life are raging, "don't be afraid."
When the unexpected comes your way, "don't be afraid."
We are not alone.
God sent Immanuel.
God is with us.

And if You, almighty God are for us, who in heaven or on earth can stand against us?
You will never forsake us, You who love the world so much that You gave us
Your only begotten Son to save us and to give us the gift of eternal life.

Jesus loved us enough to humble himself,
and he was willing to take the position of a slave
to wash this filthy world of its sins.

Jesus loved us enough that he embraced the promise of the Passover bread,
the promise of hope for all those struggling with the burdens of life.
Jesus claimed the truth of this bread with thanksgiving, and shared its promise with all:
"Take and eat, this is my body broken and shared with you."
Remember and find hope.

Jesus loved us enough that he embraced the promise of the Passover wine,
the promise of deliverance from all the plagues of this life.
Jesus claimed the truth of this wine with thanksgiving and shared its promise with all:
"Drink from this cup all of you, for it contains my blood, poured out in honor of God's
eternal covenant of salvation, a promise of forgiveness to you and to the whole world."
Remember and find hope.

We crave hope.
We crave light in our darkness.
We crave the strength promised to the weary.
This hope we find in the mystery of Christ,
and declare it with a grateful heart:

Christ died for us.
Christ arose for us.
Christ will come whenever he is needed.

Stormy Calm, Assurance of Salvation
settle upon these gifts of bread and wine
allow them to be transformed for us into
the body and blood of Christ,
our hope and help in times of need.

Stormy Calm, Assurance of Salvation
settle upon the gift of our tears, our fears, and frustrations
allow them to be transformed into your church,
the healing body and steadfast bride of Christ,
our hope and help in times of need.

Stormy Calm, Assurance of Salvation
settle upon the lives of those who are troubled and afraid.
Make a way for them in their wilderness.
Send into their lives your ministering angels.
Open their teary eyes to see the glory of the Lord that surrounds them.
Assure them now that they will never be alone,
for they are in Christ, with Christ and of Christ.
They are filled with the power and loving presence of the Holy Spirit,
and they are embraced by the God who loves them, who will never leave nor forsake
them.
Empower all to experience your peace that surpasses all understanding today, tomorrow
and forever more. Amen.

Now as those resting in the powerful arms of Jesus, let us pray with him:

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine it is kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever. Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD AND LIFTING THE CUP

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

You received prepackaged Communion elements when entering the sanctuary in a plastic bag. After partaking in the sacrament, please place your used cup back into the plastic bag and dispose upon exiting the sanctuary. If you are participating from home, you are welcome to use your own bread, wafer, or cracker and juice or water.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you for allowing us to rest in this your holy mystery found in Jesus Christ our Lord. We needed this communion. Through it we have found hope, and peace. The calming presence of Christ has chased all our fears away. This gift has been so meaningful that we feel compelled to share its grace with the world. Give us the words to share. Give to us your healing touch. Use our lives to help calm the raging storms in the lives of others. Use us to honor Christ. Amen.

* BENEDICTION

Now may the blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ,
Who is the resurrection and the life,
Be with you always and keep you in this life and the life to come.

* SENDING FORTH

Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also."
Go forth with the hope that God's most sacred work occurs on the dawn of the third day.
Go forth with the promise of eternal life to love and serve Christ.

RECESSIONAL

Worship Notes

John 6: 1-6

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989

Opening Prayer, Litany of Remembrance, Celebration of Ministries and Legacies, Invitation to Communion, Benediction, and Sending Forth.

Rev. Nina Patton-Semerod, 2021.

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer after Communion.

Rev. Michael Johnson, 2021.