

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

10:30 am

## Gathering as God's Family

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*Thee We Adore*

arr. R. Hebble

Call to Worship

Ephesians 1:11a, 12-14

In Christ, we have also obtained an inheritance  
so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ,  
**might live for the praise of his glory.**

In him we also, when we heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation,  
and had believed in him,

**were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;**  
this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people,  
**to the praise of his glory.**

\*Hymn 14

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,**

**we acknowledge our guilt,  
and seek your faith and forgiveness.**

**We have not offered steadfast love to you or each other.**

**We have not moved forward in faith,  
but allowed ourselves to be stifled by fear.**

**Revive us, raise us up,  
that we might live before you,  
rejoicing in the knowledge of your love.**

*(a moment for Silent Reflection and Confession)*

We make these confessions asking, "Lord, have mercy."

Congregational Response 551

*Lord, Have Mercy*

LAND OF REST

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News of the Gospel!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

The Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The Peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you. **And also with you.**

*\* Those who are able, please stand*

\*Congregational Response 587



Old Testament Lesson: Song of Solomon 8:6-7  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Pew Bible, NRSV (OT), p. 627

*(Ushers will collect prayer request cards during the lesson.)*

Anthem

*Upon Your Heart*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Eleanor Daley

*Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.  
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.  
If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love,  
love one another as I have loved you, then shall your joy be complete.*

Time with the Children

*(After the message, children ages four through third grade may leave for Children's Worship Time.  
Children will return to the sanctuary for today's Sacrament of Baptism.)*

New Testament Lesson: John 6:25-27

Pew Bible, NRSV (NT), p. 98

Sermon

"The Seal of Love"

Dr. John M. Willingham

*"Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm."—Song of Solomon 8:6a*

\*Hymn 693

*Though I May Speak*

GIFT OF LOVE

## The Sacrament of Baptism

THE BAPTISM OF

ELDER REPRESENTATIVE

Colby Starner Shull

Arthur L. Shull

Presentation of the Baptismal Candidate

Renunciation and Profession of Faith

\*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

**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 descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; 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.**

*\* Those who are able, please stand*

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Baptism

Welcome

Let us welcome the newly baptized:

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.**

Hymn of Thanksgiving

*Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King;  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children, joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

Concerns of the Church

*(Persons nearest the center aisle are asked to sign and pass the Act of Friendship pad toward the outside aisle. Please keep the cover open as the pad is returned.)*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in Heaven*

Frank Hernandez

Sunshine Singers

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

*(To give online or via text message, click the "Give" tab at the top of our website.)*

Offertory

*Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Healey Willan

*Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away;  
for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of the singing of birds is come; arise my love, my fair one, and come away.*

\*Congregational Response 609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn 366

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*Fugue in Eb*

J.S. Bach

**Assisting:** Becca Bateman **Lay Leader:** Galen Hays

The **Sacrament of Baptism** will be administered today to Colby Starnier Shull, son of Lindsay and Art Shull.

**New Life!** The rosebuds on the Communion Table celebrate the births of Nickolas Thomas Bonetta, born on March 29, to Jean and Brian Bonetta (the proud DPC grandparents are Sue and Tom Haldeman); Zoey Gloria Theodosopoulos, born on April 22, to Leslie and Angelo Theodosopoulos (the proud DPC grandparents are Sherri and Greg Hoynak); and Michael Stephen Hutchings, born April 25, to Maggie Michael and Stephen Hutchings (the proud DPC grandmother is Eileen Telly).

**Christian Sympathy.** The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Lauren Knapp, on the death of her mother Carol Swanson Hooper on May 2. We hold this family in prayer in their time of loss.

The **flowers** are given today in loving memory of Michael A. Fisher by Trip Fisher and family; in loving memory of our mothers, Joan Hack and Verlie Roe, by David and Nancy Roe; in loving memory of my parents, Eleanor and Edgar Holstein, by Linda Sheasley and family; and in honor of the love and commitment between Frederick and Priscilla Nobbs on what would have been their 63rd wedding anniversary by Karen Kuder, and Craig and Mary Nobbs.

Today’s **Prayer of Confession** is taken from *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts*. Volume 56.1, p. 130.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

The Nominating Committee is considering candidates for the PNC who will seek and recommend to the congregation our next Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.

It is essential that the PNC consists of individuals who reflect the diversity of our congregation. As prescribed in the *Book of Order*, we seek able, gifted persons of strong faith and dedicated discipleship because of their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

If you have a recommendation of someone (including yourself), complete this form and place it in the offering plate, drop off at the church office, or talk with any member of the Nominating Committee: Bob Maxwell, moderator, Maureen Arnold, Alison Ferrara, Greg Jensen, Gavin Jones, Kathy McQuate, Tom Maclin, Kim Nardo, and Krista Spadt. **The deadline for submitting nominations is May 15.** The Nominating Committee hopes to present a slate of nine candidates during the June 11 Congregational Meeting. If you need contact information to reach a committee member, you can call the church office at 215-348-3531 or email [dpc@dtownpc.org](mailto:dpc@dtownpc.org).

Candidate’s name: \_\_\_\_\_

DPC activity or involvement: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_