



Doylestown Presbyterian Church



Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026
10:30 am

All Are Welcome in God's House

People's Preparation

Go peaceful in gentleness through the violence of these days. Give freely, show tenderness in all your ways. Through darkness, in troubled times let holiness be your aim. Seek wisdom. Let faithfulness burn like a flame. God speed you! God lead you, and keep you wrapped around God's heart! May you be known by love. Be righteous. Speak truthfully in a world of greed and lies. Show kindness. See everyone through heaven's eyes. God hold you, enfold you, and keep you wrapped around God's heart. May you be known by love.

— Paul Field, Celtic Daily Prayer, Book Two

Gathering

The Chimes

Welcome and News of the Ministry 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.)

Prelude

Our Father In Heaven
Sunshine Singers

*Call to Worship

— from Psalm 31:1-5,14-15

Our God refuses to shame us. God's justice delivers us.

Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!

Our God listens to us. God rescues us from danger.

Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!

Our God renews our spirits. God is always faithful.

Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!

We trust our God. Let us worship God, whom we call ours.

Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!

*Hymn 394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Time with the Children

(After the message, children ages four through sixth grade may leave for Children's Worship Time. Children will be across the bridge in rooms 207 and 202. Children will return to service during the closing hymn.)

Confessing

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of compassionate mercy, your grace and love extend to all people. We are called to forgive others, as you forgive us. Far too often, however, we wield forgiveness like a weapon. We see others doing wrong and feel haughty when we grant them grace. We call out the sins of the powerful but fail to notice our own power. We become narrow in our quest for truth, and ignore other people, in other rooms, crying out for your justice. Help us search ourselves and seek forgiveness from those we have made beg us for mercy. Connect us to others and guide us to share power and grace as we follow you.

(a moment for Silent Reflection and Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Congregational Response 581 *Gloria Patri* GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)
**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, amen.**

*The Sharing of the Peace of Christ
The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Listening

First Scripture Lesson: John 14:1-14
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Pew Bible, NRSV (NT), p. 108

(Ushers will collect prayer request cards during the anthem.)

Anthem

Cornerstone

S. Kirchner

Youth Choir & Caroline R. and Jane K., Soloists
*O the stone that the builders rejected became the cornerstone of a whole new world.
A grain of wheat may be knocked to the ground and suffer through the winter's cold
Only to rise right up again and bear its seed a thousandfold.
Never shall our journey fail; a little child shall lead the way
whose eyes are filled with a shining light, to whom the night is bright as day.
The love that rolls the stone away gives us life that we may sing
"Grave, where is thy victory? Death, o death, where is thy sting?"*

Prayer of Illumination

Second Scripture Lesson: 1 Peter 2:1-10
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Pew Bible, NRSV (NT), p. 233

Sermon

"A Living Stone"

Rev. Dr. Mac Schafer

Responding

*Affirmation of Faith

Belhar Confession (Inclusive language version)

We believe in the triune God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through the Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe:

that God is revealed as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people

that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged

that God calls the church to bring justice to the oppressed and give bread to the hungry

that God frees the prisoner, supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, and blocks the path of the ungodly

that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel. To the one and only God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

*Hymn 749

We Are Called

IRREGULAR

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

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.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

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



Offertory

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
Nick Ferrara, voice & Mina Choi, piano

*Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!
I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, precious Jesus, savior, friend;
and I know that He is with me, will be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!*

*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

Sending

*Hymn 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

*Benediction

*Postlude

THAXTED (O God Beyond All Praising)

arr. M.Y. Jones

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Worship Notes

Assisting: Rev. Becca Bateman **Lay Leader:** Bill Cameron

On the cover: This photo, taken by Pastor Mac Schafer, shows stone formations in Lindisfarne, also known as Holy Island, a tidal island off the northeast coast of England.

The **flowers** today are given in loving memory of my parents, Eleanor and Edgar Holstein, by Linda Sheasley and family.

New visitors to DPC are invited to pick up a **Welcome Bag** available in the narthex inside the red doors. Thank you for joining us today!



Let's Connect! Do you have a Prayer Request? Would you like to share a joy or concern with the pastors, or other members of your DPC family? We want to hear from you! Visit www.dtownpc.org and click "Connect" at the top of the page to contact us or scan this QR code with your smart phone camera. This is also the place to learn more about our various ministries, programs, mission efforts and the many ways that you can get involved.

DPC AT A GLANCE



Sharing Stories: on Faith and LGBTQ+ Inclusion. This four-week series concludes **today at 9:30 am** in the Celtic Cross Room as we listen to stories, ask questions, and explore how we continue to create a church that reflects Christ's welcome, including all people. Today we hear "Our Own Story: Today and Tomorrow" as members of DPC will facilitate conversation about the experiences of youth in our own church community. We'll also brainstorm how DPC can continue our efforts to be welcoming and inclusive going forward.



A Concert of Prayers and Psalms is today at 4 pm in the sanctuary, featuring the DPC Chancel Choir and the Bucks County Ecumenical Choir. For centuries, composers have

been setting sacred text to music. Sometimes sorrowful, often joyful, this concert will explore the many ways that composers have reflected on these meaningful texts. No tickets required.



Flag Collection. As the United States prepares to celebrate its 250 birthday, you will want to display your newest flags for the occasion to show your pride. So, now is the time to retire your old flags that may be worn, torn, or tattered. Scout Troop 48 will be holding a Flag Retirement Ceremony at Pine Run LakeView Senior Residence on May 17 at 3 pm. Anyone with US and/or PA Flags that need to be retired in a respectful manner are encouraged to leave them in boxes located in the Mechanics Street entrance to the sanctuary (under the bridge) and in the Andrews Hall lobby **through May 10.**



DPC Youth Hoagie Fundraiser. Don't forget to pick up your hoagies **today** outside the church office following both worship services. If you didn't preorder, check with the crew to see if any extras are for sale. Thank you for supporting our wonderful Youth!



Mountains and Valleys. As the song goes, "Ain't no mountain high enough, ain't no valley low enough..." but the next Celebrate the Arts Visual Arts Display will put that to the test.

Submit your artwork or photographs featuring mountains, valleys, or similar examples of God's creation in nature. Pieces will be hung on **May 7**, so bring your submissions to the church office before then!



Home Help Corps. A reminder that Home Help Corps volunteers are ready to help members with outdoor (or indoor!) spring cleanup, errands, small home repairs, and transportation to appointments. Just call the church office at (215) 348-3531 with your request or to join our volunteers.



Pearl Buck Historic Home Tour. The DPC Perennials group is sponsoring a guided tour of the Pearl S. Buck Historic House on **May 7** from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm for DPC members and friends, with cost of admission is \$15.00 (cash or credit card, paid at the giftshop). Attendees need to provide their own transportation or car pool with others. As this tour ends around lunchtime, we can use their picnic tables or patio near the gift shop for a brown bag lunch. Please RSVP by visiting bit.ly/DPC-PEARL



Bucks County Symphony Orchestra. The BCSO is pleased to present its first ever Chamber Strings Concert to our community at DPC on **May 17**

at 3 pm We hope that you find this performance appealing and inspiring as we feature some of the BCSO's most accomplished musicians performing in an intimate chamber setting. This is a ticketed event and tickets may be purchased through buckscountysymphony.org.



Weatherwood Ridge Reserve Visit. Join DPC's Earth Care Committee for a private tour of this inspirational property. We gather at the reserve on Saturday, **May 23** at 10:00 am

to 12:30 pm. Purchased in 2014, Weatherwood Ridge Reserve woodland areas were once over browsed by deer and overrun by invasive plants, yet now within the course of a decade, the property has a thriving forest-floor community of native plants. The cost of the tour is \$35 per person. Payment will be made at the property. For full details and to register today, visit www.dtownpc.org/weatherwood-visit.



DPC Memorial Day Street Picnic. We look forward to once again joining with the community for this very special day in

Doylestown on **May 25**. Volunteers are always needed and anyone who has helped in the past will tell you how fun and rewarding it can be. Visit bit.ly/DPC-MDP to see how you can help out and sign up today! Fellowship, fun, and free coffee, donuts, and hotdogs for all!



Hindu Temple Tour. Join in with DPC members, friends and our neighbors from Second Baptist Church of Doylestown for an inspiring

tour of BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham – a breathtaking Hindu Temple in Robbinsville, New Jersey, on **Friday, May 29**. We will meet at the temple by 10:45 am for the tour, which begins at 11:00 am. **Registrations would be appreciated by Tuesday, May 12.** There is no admission fee and the tour is free. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about culture, faith, and spirituality while appreciating beautiful architecture in a majestic setting. It also allows us to expand upon our Matthew 25 initiative which guides us toward building relationships and learning together with our neighbors. For full details and the registration link, visit bit.ly/DPC-TEMPLE



DPC at the Ballpark. Baseball season is in full swing! Come and join in with other DPC members and friends to cheer on

the Phillies! DPC is taking over Citizens Bank Park on Friday, **July 24** at 6:40 pm against the Yankees. Let's cheer the team to victory together! Registration/ticket purchases will be **due by Friday, May 15**.

DPC at the Ironpigs Game. Those looking for a casual baseball experience, are invited to join in for a night with the Lehigh Valley Ironpigs on **August 29!** Minor League baseball can be major fun and some actually prefer the atmosphere. DPC is putting together a crew to visit Coca-Cola Park in Allentown for the game at 6:35 pm against the Syracuse Mets.

For full details about both of these baseball outings and to register for tickets today, visit: www.dtownpc.org/baseball-games or visit the events section on the homepage.



DPC Summer Camp.

Your kiddos won't want to miss what we have in store this year! It's time to enter the Wild West!

Visit www.dtownpc.org/children+family to learn more and to sign up today!



Children and Youth Sunday School

9:30 - 10:15 am in Andrews Hall

DPC Nursery: Open to children 9 months to 2

Little Lambs: Ages 2 to Pre-K in the Nursery

Younger Elementary: K to 2nd grade in Room 211

Older Elementary: Grades 3-5 in the Room 203

Middle School: Grades 6-8 in Youth Room 202

During 10:30 am Worship Service

DPC Nursery: Ages 9 months to age 4

Children's Worship Time (CWT): Ages 4 to 2nd grade in Room 207

CWT+: Grades 3 to 6 in Youth Room 202

Evening Groups for Children and Youth

DPC Youth: Grades 5 - 12

Bells/Choir @5pm, Dinner @5:45, Fellowship @6:15 - 7:30 pm

This week: No evening youth choir. Tonight is our end of year celebration!

Drop off and pick up at Main Strike Bowling. Bring \$5.

Adult Education Offerings

Good News and Other News - 9:30 am, Ruth I. Hughes Memorial Library, AH

Current events are discussed while reflecting upon the story from the perspective of faith.

This week: *Good News and Other News* will be on hiatus until May 10.

The Word Among Us - 9:15 am, AH-213

The Word Among Us continues to focus this season on the Book of Mark. Join us as we study and appreciate the beauty of Scripture and how we can use it in our own devotional times with God. *Led by Dick Cornelius and Margaret Thoresen.*



Mission Statement: *Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love.*

Vision Statement: *A growing community of disciples engaged in worship, service, and care.*

www.dtownpc.org 215-348-3531

