

April 28th , 2024
9:30am Worship Service
Fifth Sunday of Easter



CEDAR CHURCH

A Union Church since 1855

3419 Broadway

Allentown, PA 18104

610-395-6332

Email: cedarchurch@ptd.net

www.cedarunionchurch.com

Our Mission

Cedar Church extends a hand of welcome to all of God's children seeking a place of worship among persons dedicated to the love of Christ and his teachings.

Before The Service

A selection of traditional & contemporary sacred music arrangements played on the piano.

Prelude *Gavotte* G. F. Handel, arr. S. Drummond Wolff

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

***Greeting**

*P: P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.*

C: Amen.



***Gathering Hymn** *Lift High the Cross* all verses

Unison

(Ref.) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, our
 2. All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied bear
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the tree of pain, draw
 4. Let ev - ery race and ev - ery lan - guage tell of
 5. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God. *D.C.*
 on their brows the seal of him who died.
 all the world to seek you once a - gain.
 him who saves our souls from death and hell.
 to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

***Call to Worship**

P: Jesus is the true vine.

C: We are the branches.

*P: People of the loving vine grower,
we gather here to seek God's care. Open your hearts:
Let God's Spirit tend you,
Let God's word cleanse you,
Let God's commandment of love abide in you,*

**C: Let us avail to the loving attention of our God
and be fruitful.**

P: Come, let us worship God!

***Opening Prayer**

LA: Let us pray.

C: Vine-grower, during this time of worship, we come to grow and learn. You offer us life, nourish us, and create a space to thrive. May our worship draw us closer to you.

Shape and form our hearts and minds as we hear your word, sing your praises, and seek your guidance through prayer. Strengthen us to bear good fruit today and in the days to come.

In the name of the one who proclaimed, I am the vine. Amen.

***Invitation to Confession**

P: The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep with us, so they can bear fruit in our lives. But we resist staying connected to the Vine, thinking we can flourish on our own. Let us confess our sins, so we can once more feel God abiding deep within us. Please join me as we pray, saying,

***Prayer of Confession**

C: You call us beloved, and tell us to love one another, God of love. You tell us that we are liars if we claim to love you and not each other. Yet, we lie. We claim to love you and we exclude others from that love. We are called to bear fruit, and yet often do not want to go through the growth process that takes. We would rather go our own ways than be cultivated to grow in your way.

Forgive our resistance to your work. Help us to yield to your will. May we see the areas where we need to be pruned, and accept that work gracefully. May we offer your love to all, not just those we think deserve it. Give us true words to speak when we proclaim your love. Amend our lives so that the fruit we bear in you is sweet for all who encounter it. Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

***Assurance of Pardon**

P: Beloved community, you are forgiven and have nothing to fear.

In the words of 1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear..." Go now in love, forgiven and fearless.

C: Thanks be to God!

***Canticle of Praise**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

(Please be seated.)

Scriptures (*Scripture Verses are NSRV unless otherwise stated*)

The Lesson from

Acts 8:26-40 *Led by the Spirit,*

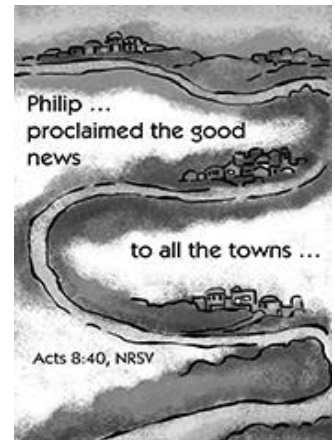
Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”



³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Psalm

Psalm 22:25-31

We last heard Psalm 22 on Maundy Thursday when it was read in its entirety. This portion sings of inclusive love. All peoples, all the ends of the earth, will praise God, who welcomes all.

- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- ²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
- ³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

The Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

*Gospel Acclamation



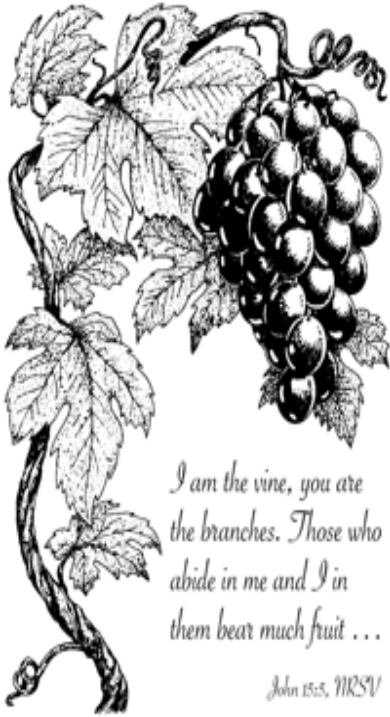
Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: Listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.



[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: This is the good news.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sermon

*“For happiness one needs security,
but joy can spring like a flower even from the cliffs of despair.”
Anne Morrow Lindbergh*

Hymn of the Day *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* all verses

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my-self in thee;
2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de-mands;
3. Noth-ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eyes shall close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy wound - ed side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un-known, see thee on thy judg-ment throne,

be of sin the dou-ble cure, save from wrath and make me pure.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun-tain fly, wash me, Sav - ior, or I die!
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

(Silence is kept)

LA: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

LA: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

LA: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering especially... God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us...

***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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*** Offertory Invitation**

P: And now, not because we have to, but because we are grateful, let us return to God what is ours to share. Let us joyfully offer our time, our treasure, our commitment, and our prayers. Please share generously!

(Please be seated)

Offertory Anthem: *Face the Cross* Ruth Elaine Schram & Scott Schram

***Doxology (Sung)**

**C: 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**

P: Let us pray.

C: We abide in you, God, and offer you our lives. You use even what is pruned for the growing of your reign. We bring the first fruits of our lives, the first fruits of our vines to you today. We offer them with reverence and awe for the good of your reign. May you use them in ways that bear good fruit. Amen.

*** Blessing**

P: Go now, in the love of our God.

C: We will live for others through our God.

P: Go now, in the grace of Jesus.

C: We will forgive others, just as we have been forgiven.

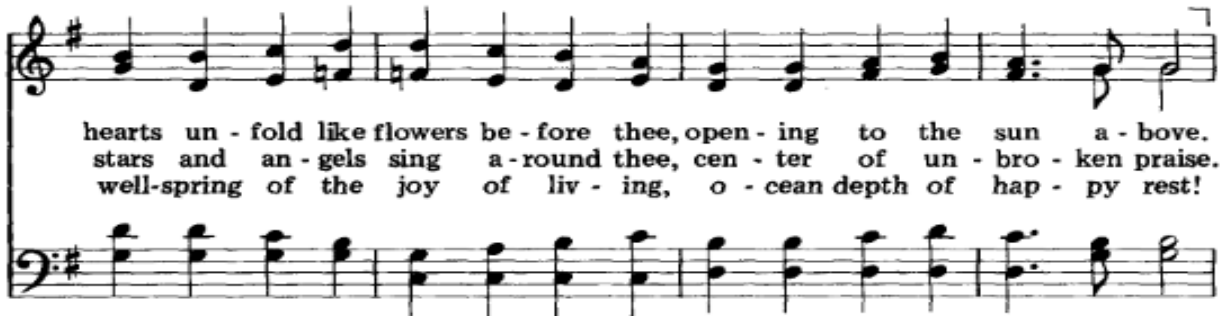
P: Go now, in the community of the Spirit.

**C: We will serve others in every need, in every place,
in every heart.**

***Sending Hymn** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* all verses



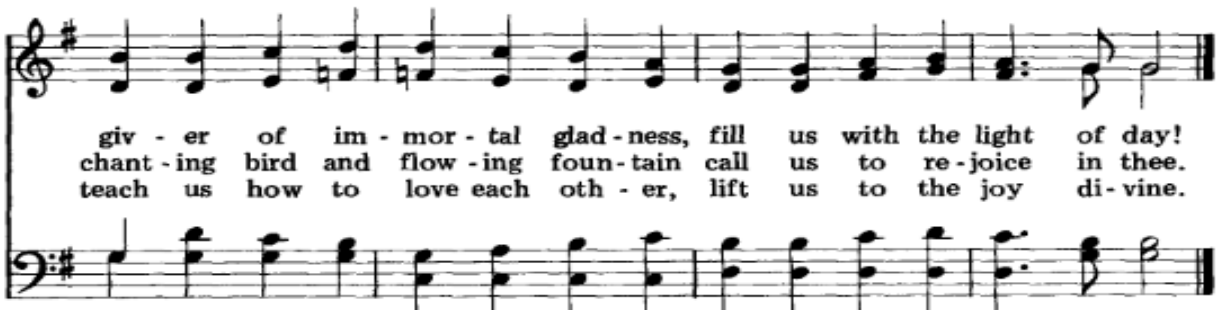
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er— all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.

We carry the light of Christ into the world.

***Sung Benediction**

**C: God be with you till we meet again.
By his counsels' guide uphold you,
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

***Dismissal**

LA: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

LA: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

The Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Rev. Candi Cain-Borgman (cell: 610-762-9391)

Music Director: David Beck

Sexton: Don Hinderliter

Church Secretary: Jenny Simmons (Office Hrs. Tue-Wed-Thu 8am-4pm)

Videographer & Claxton: Phil Horlacher

Worship Lay Assistant: Ellen Sherer

Altar Guild: Sandra Diacogiannia

Usher: June Knecht

2024 Cedar Advisory Board (CAB)

President: Chris Ellis, Vice President: Tammy Boyer, Treasurer: Phil Horlacher,
Assistant Treasurer: Sue Phillips, Secretary: Jeannine Leonard, Assistant
Secretary: Janine Barnaby, Members: Ron Kozza, Cory Lentz, Zach Borger,
Carol Haines and Pastor Candi Cain-Borgman.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given by Ron and Jenny Simmons in memory of our friend Ray Fenstermacher
and his wife Doris that he adored in life and now reunited in death.

Given by Diane McKenzie in honor of nephew, David Hunsicker Jr's birthday.

BULLETIN:

Given by Dale Clauser in loving memory of his wife Nancy Clauser.

Given by Tamara House to the glory of God.

DEVOTIONALS:

Given by The Estate of Paul and Madlyn Haines in memory of departed loved
ones.

YOUTH BULLETIN:

Given by Irv & Sandy Becker in honor of our anniversary.



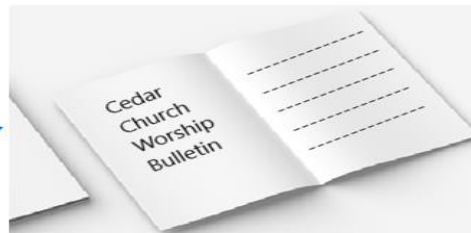
46 or 40 ounce cans needed for our altar flowers



L.M.D Summer Ingathering:

Collecting Items for Lunch Program run by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Catasauqua. They are providing free lunches in a local park to feed and support children of their community. We been asked to collect the following items beginning April 14th thru May.

1. Individual salty snack bags
2. 16oz bottles of water
3. Walmart (Sam's Club) gift cards in \$10 increments for Trinity Lutheran to purchase needed supplies



*If you would like to sponsor the church bulletin
@ \$5 per week, please contact Jenny
at the church office.
Some dates have come available.*

**We also have Altar Flowers Dates
Available \$14.50 ea.**

MAY 5th Social at 10:30am



PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Garnett, Kathy Ehrhardt, Marty and Roseanne Ritter, Traevis and Cassidy, Sydney and JJ, Connie D., Alicia Eggert, Greg and Heather Gravec, David Annoni, John Winterburn, Amy Beck, Charles Schiffert, Margaret Boyle, Carnell and Abby, Christa, Eric Wakoli, Nancy Erdman, Barbara, Hailey, Patti, George Minnich, Gail and Ken Ruth, Tom Bartman, Marlene Frey, Andy Wheeler, Kourtney, Charles Haggerty, Denise, Sara Beth, Amanda and Jessie, Mary, Connor, Cindy Polchik, Danielle, Barry, Gary Shellhammer, Susan Pursell, Joan Carter, Dale Erdman, Ron Zorn, Rod, Kathleen, Jean Robertson, Christine Wagner, Megan, Terry Mace, Dawn Fenstermacher, Kim Bastian, Linda Ellis, Scott, Debbie, Shirley McNabb, Pauline Gaal, Al and Joan Plarr, Haisley Grim, Gene and Joan, Howard and Nancy, Cassie Mace, Cindy Fenstermacher, Anna Mae Derhammer, Brooke Weber, Fritz and Ardella Ehrhardt, Members of our Recovery Groups, Linda and Family, Lisa Stover Halley and Family and the Family of Ray Fenstermacher

**To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please contact the church office.
(Hospitalization codes: 203 and 404)**

Note: The Lehigh Valley and Saint Luke's Hospital Lists are not kept up to date and can be difficult to navigate. So, please notify the Church Office or Pastor Candi if you or a family member is hospitalized.

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary
Hymn Sing		

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Choir Practice	7:00pm	100
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Sunday, May 5, 2024

Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary
Mother's Day Social	10:30am	Kitchen, Social Hall

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Worship and Music	7:00pm	100
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Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Choir Practice	7:00pm	100
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Thursday, May 9, 2024

Staff Support Meeting	7:00pm	103
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Sunday, May 12, 2024

Sunday Worship Service (Happy Mother's Day)	9:30am	Sanctuary
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Pastor Prayer List

Garnett, Kathy Ehrhardt, Marty and Roseanne Ritter,
Traevis and Cassidy, Sydney, Connie D., Alicia Eggert,
Greg and Heather Gravec, David Annoni,
John Winterburn, Amy Beck, Charles Schiffert,
Margaret Boyle, Carnell and Abby, Christa, Eric
Wakoli, Nancy Erdman, Barbara, Hailey, Patti, George
Minnich, Gail and Ken Ruth, Tom Bartman, Marlene
Frey, Andy Wheeler, Kourtney, Charles Haggerty,
Denise, Sara Beth, Amanda and Jessie, Mary, Connor,
Cindy Polchik, Danielle, Barry, Gary Shellhammer,
Susan Pursell, Joan Carter, Dale Erdman, Ron Zorn,
Rod, Kathleen, Jean Robertson, Christine Wagner,
Megan, Dawn Fenstermacher, Kim Bastian, Linda
Ellis, Scott, Debbie, Shirley McNabb, Pauline Gaal, Al
and Joan Plarr, Haisley Grim, Gene and Joan, Howard
and Nancy, Cassie Mace, Cindy Fenstermacher, Anna
Mae Derhammer, Brooke Weber, Fritz and Ardella
Ehrhardt, Members of our Recovery Groups, Lisa
Stover Halley and Family and the Family of Ray
Fenstermacher