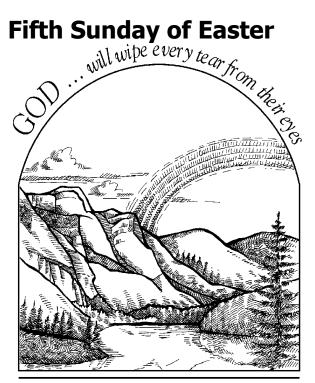
May 18, 2025

9:30 AM

Communion Worship Service



There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.

Revelation 21:4

CEDAR CHURCH

A Union Church since 1855 3419 Broadway Allentown, PA 18104 610-395-6332 Email: <u>cedarchurch@ptd.net</u> 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. *Please rise in body or spirit.

Before The Service

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

Prelude Love Divine All Loves Excelling Gordon Young

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Greeting*P:* Alleluia! Christ is risen.C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!





*Call to Worship

P: Imagine...

C: a place where all are welcome and everyone hears the sound of their name.

P: Imagine...

C: everyone having enough food and water and a home free of hatred and fear.

P: Imagine...

C: a place where creativity is valued and the spirit is nurtured in love.

P: Imagine...just imagine... this is that place.

C: With one voice, one joy, one faith, one love we worship God together.

*Opening Prayer

LA: Let us pray:

C: We praise you, O God, for the gift of creation and the surprise of recreation. Open our eyes to see new things. Open our minds to think fresh thoughts. Open our communities to welcome new partners. Open our spirits to follow your Spirit. Amen.

*Invitation to Confession

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

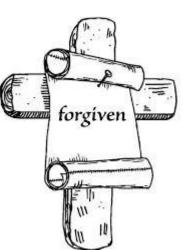
*Unison Prayer of Confession

C: Patient God, sometimes we are just too busy for our own good. We pledge ourselves to hectic schedules, demands on time, energy, and resources that erode all too quickly. We seem to be rushing through life. The cries of those in need often go unheeded in our blur of activities which sap our energy, our resources, our spirits. Slow us down a bit, Lord. Remind us again that we are responsible for the care of this world, for reaching out and offering your healing love. Help us to hear the words of patient love that you have for us. Remind us again of Jesus' words to his disciples when he told them that they should love one another as he loved them. May we take time to bear witness to that love in all that we do. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Silence is kept for reflection.

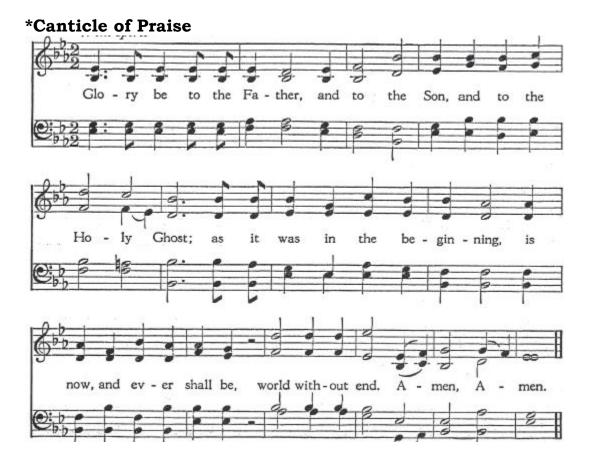
*Kyrie

- *P: Lord have mercy upon us.*
- C: Lord have mercy upon us.
- P: Christ have mercy upon us.
- C: Christ have mercy upon us.
- P: Lord have mercy upon us.
- C: Lord have mercy upon us.

*Assurance of Pardon



P: Wherever you are, Jesus the Christ, our brother and Savior, is with you. You are beloved of God and God's care will always surround you. Be at peace and rejoice!



(Please be seated.)

Scriptures (Scripture Verses are NSRV unless otherwise stated)

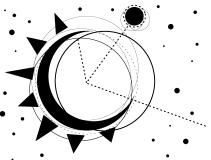
The Responsive Reading of the Psalms Psalm 148, The Voice

The poet writing this Psalm sings that the whole world should praise God; no matter what creature, no matter what station a human found in life. Age, gender, power are all pushed aside when we stand before God and acknowledge God's goodness. All people and all creation find a common unity in one voice.

¹ Praise the Eternal! All you in the heavens, praise the Eternal; praise God from the highest places!

² All you, His messengers and His armies in heaven: praise God! ³ Sun, moon, and all you brilliant stars above: praise Him!

⁴ Highest heavens and all you waters above the heavens: praise God!



Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

- ⁵ Let all things join together in a concert of praise to the name of the Eternal, for God gave the
- command and they were created.
- ⁶ God put them in their places to stay
- forever— He declared it so, and it is final.
 - ⁷ Everything on earth, join in and praise the Eternal; and prostors and creatures of
 - sea monsters and creatures of the deep, ⁸ Lightning and hail, snow and foggy mists, violent winds all respond to His

command.

- ⁹ Mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedar forests,
- PSALM 148:3, NRSV
- ¹⁰ All you animals both wild and tame, reptiles and birds who take flight: praise God.

¹¹ All kings and all nations, princes and all judges of the earth,

¹² All people, young men and women, old men and children alike, praise God.

¹³ Let them all praise the name of the Eternal!For God's name stands alone above all others.God's glory shines greater than anything above or below.

¹⁴ God has made His people strong; God is the praise of all who are godly, the praise of the children of Israel, those whom God holds close. Praise the Eternal!

The Epistle Reading

Revelation 21:1-6, NIV

Revelation 21:1–6 reveals the new heaven and the new earth, and the possibility that things as we know them may change, fade, and pass away. This newness is nothing to be feared but instead embraced as a gift from the One who dwells with us and all creation. There is no escaping the fundamental unity found in the one who is the Alpha and the Omega of all that exists.

¹ Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'

⁶ He said to me: 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

John 13:31-35, The Voice

It is a universal message, one that is inclusive and life changing. Love one another without restriction and condition for this is the way in which people will know the disciples of Jesus, and the solidarity we are called to proclaim.



P: Listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John. **C: Glory to you, O Christ.**

³¹ Upon Judas's departure, Jesus spoke:

Jesus: Now the Son of Man will be glorified as God is glorified in Him. ³² If God's glory is in Him, His glory is also in God. The moment of this astounding glory is imminent. ³³ My children, My time here is brief. You will be searching for Me; and as I told the Jews, "You cannot go where I am going." ³⁴ So I give you a new command: Love each other deeply and fully. Remember the ways that I have loved you, and demonstrate your love for others in those same ways. ³⁵ Everyone will know you as My followers if you demonstrate your love to others.

P: This is the good news. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

Children's Time

Children ages 3 to 11 are now dismissed for Children's Church and can be picked up in Room 102 after the service.)

Prayer of the Day

P: God who loves Creation in all its rainbow diversity, speak to us who narrow, define, pigeon-hole, and exclude those who are not like us. May we view the world as you see it in all its strange beauty and wonderful diversity. Amen.

C: Amen.

Sermon



"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

Anne Bradstreet

Hymn of the Day

1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

4 God, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one! *The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

(*Please be seated.*)

Prayers of Intercession

P: Welcoming God, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

(Silence is kept.)

LA: Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

LA: Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

LA: Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress especially... As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your lifegiving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Åmen.

Offertory Invitation

P: God has given us the gift of faith. Through this gift we see all people as God's children. Respond to God's generous love, that we may love one another as God has loved us. Let us share this love as we bring share generously.

Offertory: Aurelia arr. Harold DeCou

*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: Loving God, you have given us the task to love one another. May the gifts we offer bring love and life to others.
 - May the love we share bring hope to a world that has forgotten how to love. Amen.

Service of Holy Communion *The Invitation

LA: Come to this table: you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come! It is Jesus the Christ who invites us to meet him here.

*The Eucharistic Prayer

LA: God be with you.

C: And with you.

LA: Lift up your hearts, people of God.

C: We lift them to our Lord so they might be filled with a new spirit. LA: Let us give thanks to God who loves us.

C: May our willing spirits offer praises to the One who feeds us.

LA: Our greatest joy is to offer you our thanks and praise,

Creator, Grace-giver, Healer of our brokenness.

All that is beautiful was created for our eyes;

all that is wonderful was created for our awe;

all that is majestic was created for our praise;

all that is mystery was created for our silence.

But despite everything you have given us, we are not satisfied.

Believing life is about our appetites, we choose the bread of the world not the bread of life; knowing our only hope is from you, we continue to rebel; called to live in unity with one another, we cling to all which divides us.

Yet you refuse to let go of us, sending your only Son, Jesus, to call us to life in you. We have fallen, and you lift us up; we have forsaken you, and you redeem us; we are broken, and you make us whole.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices, here and now, with the faithful of every time and place, singing to the glory of your name:

*Seraphic Hymn (Sung)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and Earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! *P: It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ, who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers: loving what he loved living what he taught, and striving to be his faithful servants in our time and place.*

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises, and the price he pai for who he was, what he said, and what he did for us.

On the night before Jesus died, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying, "This is the new covenant, whenever you drink of it, remember me." We do remember. We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again.

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

C: Dying, Christ was our salvation; Rising, Christ is our new life; Returning, Christ is to come to bring us home.

P: Holy Mystery, God the Spirit, we call on you to transform these familiar things, as you continually transform the world around us.

> Bless this bread and this cup, the wheat and the grape, the farmer and the harvest, the seed and the sower.



So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community, we may taste and see your goodness, so that we might catch a glimpse of what it is to be in communion with you and with one another.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

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.

(*Please be seated.*)

Call to Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that our brother and Savior, Jesus the Christ, died and was raised for you.

Distribution of the Sacrament

Communion will be by intinction. Communion will be served to the choir first, then to those in the balcony. The usher will indicate when it's time for your row to move forward to receive communion,

When you do come forward, please proceed via the center aisle and exit by the side aisles. You will get a wafer from the pastor. There are also gluten-free wafers available. The pastor's chalice contains wine. In the assistant's chalice, there is grape juice.





*Prayer of Thanksgiving

LA: Let us pray:

C: Amazing God, you have come into our ordinary lives and set a holy table before us, filling our plates with the bread of heaven, and our cups with salvation.

Send us out, O God, with tenderheartedness to touch an ordinary, everyday world with your extravagant promise of your love. Amen.

* Sending Forth

- *P:* Go forth as those who resist and reject the false claims of separateness, superiority, and privilege.
- C: We go forth as a people united in justice, embracing the gifts of those whose contributions are too often ignored or denied.
- *P*: Go forth as those who know you are never alone in joy or in struggle.
- C: We go forth claiming the promise of a new heaven and new earth, a place where all people and all creation are valued.
- *P:* Go forth as people of the resurrection, living the love you have received, so that everyone may know the meaning, depth, and power of God's love.
- C: We go forth in led by the spirit of God, in whom all things are one.





***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. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: Thanks be to God.

David Cherwien ***Postlude** *Cwm Rhondda*

Thank you, Cindy Geho, for being our organist today.

The Ministers	Pastor					
All the People	Rev. Candi Cain-Borgman (cell: 610-762-9391)					
Music Director	Sexton		Church Secretary			
David Beck	Don Hinderliter		Jenny Simmons			
Volunteers			(Office Hr	s. Tue-Wed-Thu 8am-4pm)		
Lay Assistance		Altar	Guild	Ushers		
Janine Barnaby M	ay 4 th & 25 th	Nanc	y Otto	Chris Ellis & Tammy Boyer		
Dan Barnaby May 11th						
Carol Haines May 18th						
Children's Church						
Jenny Simmons &	Maggie Gabel	MAY 18th	– END OF YEAR PARTY			

Videographer & Claxton Welcome Video Content Creator Phil Horlacher

Zach Borger & Sarah Barnaby

2025 Cedar Advisory Board (CAB)

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



ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given by June Knecht in honor of great granddaughters Sadie Wertz and Alli Olivencia

Given by Josephine Litzenberger in memory of Sonny Litzenberger, Barry Henning, Derek Brobst,

Jenna Brobst and Debi Hart.

BULLETIN:

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

Given by Joan Carter in memory of Eleanor and Donald Dorney.

DEVOTIONALS:

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

YOUTH BULLETIN:

Given by Sandra Diacogiannis in honor of all Cedar Church members

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 18, 2025 Easter 5						
Altar Guild: Linen White, Communion Service						
Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary				
Children's Church	9:45am	102				
Mother's Day Social	10:30am	Social hall, Kitchen				
Tuesday, May 20, 2025						
Property Committee	7:00pm	100				
Wednesday, May 21, 2025						
Young Adult Group	6:00pm	002				
No Choir Practice	7:00pm	100				
Sunday, May 25, 2025						
Easter 6						
Altar Guild: Linen White						
Sunday Worship Service Hymn Si	ng 9:30am	Sanctuary				
Memorial Day Service	10:45am	Cemetery				
Monday, May 26, 2025						
Book Club	7:00pm	100				
Wednesday, May 28, 2025						
Book Club	10:30am	Social Hall				
Last Day of Choir Practice	7:00pm	100				

Ladies Event Saturday, June 7, 2-4pm Paint Some Pottery (4144 Tilghman St.)



Pick & pay for your own piece <u>Sign up</u> sheet on the piano in church Or contact Sarah Barnaby if you are interested. 484-764-9596 / <u>dsbarnaby@gmail.com</u>

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS Short and Long Term Illness

Lynn L., Frank Knauss, Denise and Alan, Vicky Mace, Kathy Wilt, Sue Hrecicien, Barbara Flickinger, Kelly Schantz, Barbara Snyder, Daniel McFadden, Tom Bartman, Malachi Calderon, Elaine, Nancy, Barbara Miller, Joanne McNabb, Lorenzo Coco Jr., Craig and Marlene Sebring, Skip Phillips, Brandon Mace, Garnett, John Nuttall, John Winterburn, Amy Beck, Eric Wakoli, Patti, Marlene Frey, Andy Wheeler, Kourtney, Sara Beth, Amanda, Cindy Polchik, Danielle, Barry, Joan Carter, Dale Erdman, Jean Robertson, Megan, Kim Bastian, Pauline Gaal, Haisley Grim, Howard & Nancy, Cassie Mace, Brooke Weber, Randy, Members of our Recovery Groups, The family of Martin Ritter and

Cedar's Homebound Members

Pat and George Minnich, Albert and Joan Plarr, Barbara Snyder, Fred & Ardella, Jeanette Fry, Linda Ellis, Nancy Erdman, Anna Mae Derhammer, William Dorney, Bernice Rabenold, Marty & Rosanne Ritter, Lu Vogle, Shirley McNabb, Elanore Gilbert, Christine Wagner, Sharon Acampora, Betty Brunner, Mary Fillman and Gail Ruth.

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.

Cedar Church Prayer List

Lynn L., Frank Knauss, Denise and Alan, Vicky Mace, Kathy Wilt, Sue Hrecicien, Barbara Flickinger, Kelly Schantz, Barbara Snyder, Daniel McFadden, Tom Bartman, Malachi Calderon, Elaine, Nancy, Barbara Miller, Joanne McNabb, Lorenzo Coco Jr., Craig and Marlene Sebring, Skip Phillips, Brandon Mace, Garnett, John Nuttall, John Winterburn, Amy Beck, Eric Wakoli, Patti, George Minnich, <u>Marlene</u> Frey, <u>Andy</u> Wheeler, <u>Kourtney</u>, <u>Sara</u> Beth, Amanda, Cindy Polchik, Danielle, Barry, Joan Carter, Dale Erdman, Jean Robertson, Megan, <u>Kim</u> Bastian, <u>Pauline</u> Gaal, <u>Haisley</u> Grim, Howard & Nancy, Cassie Mace, Brooke Weber, Randy, Members of our Recovery Groups, The Family of Martin Ritter and **Cedar's Homebound Members** <u>Albert and Joan</u> Plarr, <u>Barbara</u> Snyder, Fred & Ardella, Jeanette Fry, Linda Ellis, Nancy Erdman, Anna Mae Derhammer, William Dorney, Bernice Rabenold, Marty & Rosanne Ritter, Lu Vogle, Shirley McNabb, Eleanore Gilbert, Christine Wagner, Elanore Gilbert Sharon Acampora, Betty Brunner, Mary Fillman and Gail Ruth