



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15228

www.shupchurch.org

10:15 am WORSHIP

May 18, 2025

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The new heaven is plainly and simply the place where God is. This is the first and most important detail: heaven is the place where God is and humans are fully united with God. With the vision of the place where the God we love and worship stands right beside us - we can continue walking until we arrive where God makes God's home among us.

- The Rev. Dana Ferguson, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago

See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more.

- Revelation 21:3-4

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Campanile Bells: *Siyahumba* (Drummer – Mike Robinson)

arr. A.L. Page

(Translation: “We are marching in the light of God”)

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Chip McCoy

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed! Hallelujah! Amen!

Hymn: *To God Be the Glory*

No. 485

*Call to Confession

Our sister Julian of Norwich spoke these words of faith: “All people who shall be saved, while we are in this world, have in us a marvelous mixture of both well-being and woe. We have in us our risen Lord Jesus. We have in us the misery of the harm of Adam’s falling and dying. We are steadfastly protected by Christ, and by the touch of his grace we are raised into sure trust of salvation. And by Adam’s fall our perceptions are so shattered in various ways, by sins and by different sufferings, that we are so darkened and blinded that we can hardly find any comfort.” In the strong assurance of pardon, let us confess our sin.

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Without your love, O God, we are lost. We have done the things we would avoid. What you desire, the works of compassion and peace, we have not done. By your mercy, transform our lives. Guide us into honesty and love. Fill us with your peace so that our dreams and visions may be one with yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you that, in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response: *The Gloria*

Now let our voices raise; Alleluia! Amen!

To give to God our praise; Alleluia! Amen!

Mercy and grace abound! In God our lives are found!

Long may our joy resound; Alleluia! Amen!

*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

Anthem: *You Are There*

H. Sorenson

Chorus:

*You are faithful, God; and Your mercy never ends.
You are faithful, God; grace that we can't comprehend.
And when we go astray, walk away,
Still Your mercy You will extend.
And when our heart is torn, faith is worn,
We can see that You are there.*

You are faithful, God; when our hearts are blind to you.
You are faithful, God; waiting for our eyes to see the truth.
And when we stop in fear, path unclear,
Patiently You guide us back to You.
And in our broken prayer, grief unshared,
We can see that You are there.

You're tearing down the walls that we didn't know we built
Loosening the chains that had bound us in our guilt,
Running out to meet us when we felt that we could not go home.
You're picking up the pieces of the grace we've thrown away;
Building back the lives that we've left in disarray.
And when we stop our running, we will find that You were always there.
And when we stop our running, we'll find You were there.
You have never changed.

Chorus:

CCLI #1065469

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

Children's Story Time

New Testament Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

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. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 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. 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.”

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.”

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. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss

Hymn: *This is My Commandment*

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

This Is My Commandment 600

I have told you this . . . that your joy may be complete. Jn. 15:11-12

May be sung as a round.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a circled '1' above the first measure. The second staff begins with a circled '2' above the first measure. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is a simple, memorable tune that repeats at the end of the second staff.

① This is my com-mand-ment, that you love one an - oth - er that your

② joy may be full. This is my com-mand-ment, that you

love one an-oth - er that your joy may be full, that your joy may be

full, that your joy may be full. This is my com-mand-ment, that you

love one an - oth - er that your joy may be full.

WORDS: John 15:11-12
MUSIC: Anonymous

LOVE ONE ANOTHER
Irregular

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles 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. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Campanile Bells: *When the Saints Go Marching In*

arr. L. Larson

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

The 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 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.**

Presenting Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

*Response: *Doxology*

**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.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE

Hymn: *They'll Know We Are Christians* (see insert on following page)

*Benediction (*To be sung*):

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you; wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness; protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing; at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing; once again into our doors.

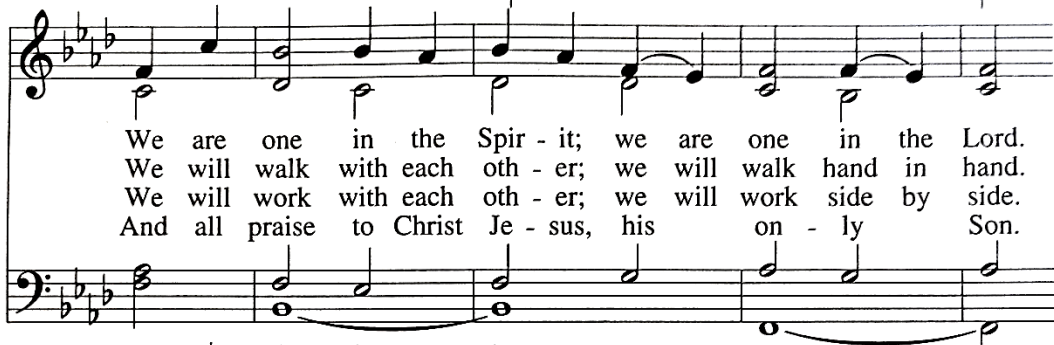
*Postlude

**If you are able to do so, please stand.*

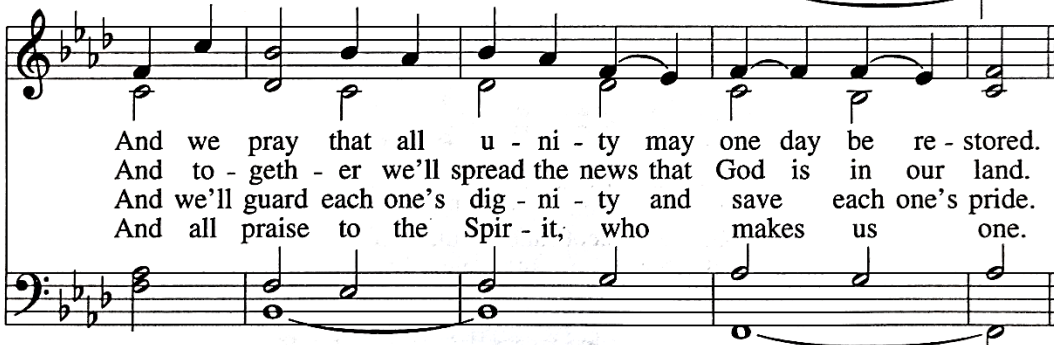
They'll Know We Are Christians 595

Unison

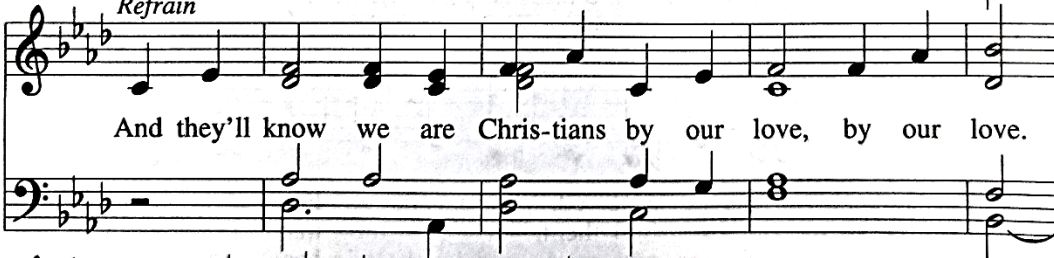

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.



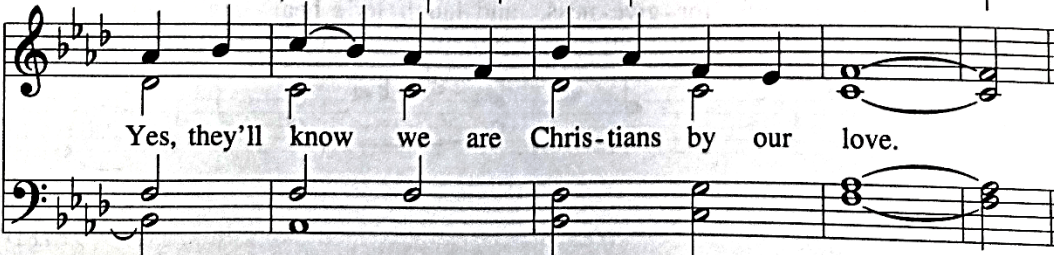
We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his on - ly Son.



And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
 And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
 And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
 And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

Refrain


And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love.



Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes (1938-); para. John 13:35

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The Chancel Flowers were given today by the Tang Family in honor of their family.

Happy Birthday to Riley Farabaugh (18th), Dian Duffner (24th), and David Heim (24th).

Deacon Greeter(s)/Flower Deliveries Made By: Pat Ellis and Darlene Farabaugh

Most Needed Items for SHIM: Dried beans, lentils, pasta sauce in jars, cereal & oatmeal, soup, condiments, spices, adult diapers, baby diapers (size 4-6), dog and cat food, and personal care items.

SHIM Clothing Closet: Accepting donations of clothes (in season), shoes, and linens (no large household items). Located at the Church of Nazarene (5601 Library Road). Drop-off hours: Monday – 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. *If you are not able to deliver your donations during their hours, you can leave them in the closet outside of Findley Hall and a Mission Commission member will deliver them for you.*

Hospital visits by Pastor Laura can be scheduled through the church office. If you or someone you know is having surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know so that Pastor Laura can be there to visit and pray with you and your loved ones.

Scheduling a Meeting with Pastor Laura: if you would like to meet with Pastor Laura to discuss a matter that is **not** a medical or pastoral care emergency, please reach out to her. You can contact her via email at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com or by calling the church office at (412)561-6261 to schedule a meeting. Dropping in to say “hi” is always appreciated, but scheduling a meeting ensures that Pastor Laura can dedicate the necessary time to your discussion if needed.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer Circle – Amanda & Garth Zeglin and Mary Abbott

May – Jett Owsley & Family, Zachary Sumner, Andrea Hall & Family, Mike Rossman & Family, Dee Borman

Ongoing –Ron Sumner; Nancy Brumfield; Mya Kelly; Joanna; Becca; our mission co-workers at the U.S.-Mexico border, the Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar and their children, Cindy, Anna Flor, and Nathan; our sister church in Malawi, Africa, Litchenza CCAP; our WorldVision child, Pabatso Makhalanyane; and all those who are affected by natural disasters.



Welcome to Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

Phone: 412-561-6261

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Address: 900 Country Club Dr. Pgh, PA 15228

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Laura E. Strauss

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. William Gracey

Website: www.shupchurch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shupchurch/>

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun, May 18

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall
9:00 am Children's Sunday School - Library
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
10:45 am Children's Church
4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall
5:30 pm Troop #16212 - Crystal

Mon, May 19

1:00 pm Findley Hall Bible Study
6:30 pm Troop #46920 – Rm. 110

Tues, May 20

12:30 pm Tues. Afternoon Bible Study – Cort Rm.
6:45 pm Campanile Bells (Final Rehearsal)
7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall
7:00 pm Counseling Group – Rm. 6
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice

Wed, May 21

10:00 am Days for Girls – Wilson Hall
4:00 pm Quilters – Findley Hall
6:30 pm Tai Chi – Crystal Hall

Thurs, May 22

7:00 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall

Fri, May 23

5:00 pm AA – Crystal Hall

Sun, May 25

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall
9:00 am Children's Sunday School - Library
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
10:45 am Children's Church
4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall

SOCIAL JUSTICE DINNERS:

A Monthly Community Feast for Kindness



**Join us Saturday, May 17 from 6-8 pm
for an evening of good food, great
company, and neighborly care!**

WHERE: Sunset Hills Presbyterian Church, 900 Country Club Dr, Pittsburgh 15228

WHAT: Potluck Dinner and community gathering to share needs and spark action.

2025 will bring challenges for many in our community – but we can rise together. At Social Justice Dinners, we'll break bread, share stories, and stand in solidarity. Each month, we'll spotlight a local cause and build the connections that create real change.

WHAT WE'LL HAVE:

- ✓ **Shared Meal** – Bring a dish to share with your neighbors!
- ✓ **"Help Wall" & Support Table** – Need a hand or have something to offer? Post your request or skill (e.g., "Happy to help with yard work" or "Looking for a book club buddy") and build community connections.
- ✓ **A Spotlight on Local Needs** – Hear from local heroes about ways we can support those in need right here in Lebo.
- ✓ **An Opportunity to Write Letters** to our representatives.
- ✓ **Kids' Activity Corner** – A fun, welcoming space just for kids! Enjoy crafts, games, and creative activities while the grown-ups connect.



Come for the food, stay for the connection, and leave knowing you've made a difference. All are welcome!

RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/leboSJdinner>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Final Campanile Bell Practice:** Tuesday, May 20th, is the final Campanile Bell Practice. We will break for summer and return in September.
- ❖ **VBS: Take VBS to the Alaskan Wilderness!** This year's Vacation Bible School theme, True North: Trusting God in a Wild World is an Alaskan theme. We need to borrow the following supplies for Vacation Bible School from August 4 – 8: Canoes / Kayaks / Oars, Artificial Christmas Trees (unlighted), Coolers, Camp Chairs, Alaskan/Tundra-Themed Décor, Camping Decor/Supplies. Please make sure to put your name on your supplies so they may be returned to you in a timely manner. Supplies can be put in the Junior High Youth room, located on the left after the Sexton office in the downstairs hallways leading to the preschool. Contact Pastor Laura (revlaurastrauss@gmail.com) with any questions.
- ❖ **VBS Volunteers Needed:** Help SHUP guide the littlest hearts and minds to God. Volunteers are needed to help VBS 2025 run successfully. Dedicating your time and talents to this important mission is a tremendous gift to the faith of God's children. Please consider signing up to share yourselves for one or more days during VBS week. Contact Pastor Laura (revlaurastrauss@gmail.com) with any questions. Volunteers are required to have up to date clearances. Please contact Stratton in the office at 412-561-6261 or at sunsethillschurch@gmail.com with any questions about your clearance status.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Geranium Order Form



\$6 x _____ = _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Please return your order form and cash or check payment
to the SHUP office by **May 28th**.

Contact Stratton with any questions at 412-561-6261.