



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

www.shupchurch.org

10:15 am WORSHIP

April 27, 2025

The Second Sunday of Easter

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to Guest Preacher, Elder Wayne “Chip” L. McCoy, Jr.

“Chip” is married to Susanne Kurz of Steinwenden, Germany and has two grown children, Benjamin and Katherine. They live on his family farm in Beaver County. He is on Session serving the Administration and Personnel Commission. He’s retired from a career in the Air Force, runs a sawmill and makes furniture.

ENTERING GOD’S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Introit: *He Is Lord!*

(Phil 2:10-11)

**He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord!**
CCLI #1065469

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Tim Fako

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is alive; let all people praise him.

People: Let all creation sing with joy. Alleluia!

*Opening Hymn: *Christ is Alive!*

No. 108

*Call to Confession

Trusting in the love of God to make all things new, let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

*Unison Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, your command to love one another across differences opens us to new horizons. Yet we often respond with hostility and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray. Give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

God's promises are trustworthy and true. Your sins are forgiven. Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may you always be known by your love.

*Response: *Fairest Lord Jesus* (vs. 4)

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine!**

*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

He was born in a humble town.
He had no throne, he had no crown,
A simple man who shared his love,
And preached a message from above.

He never traveled far from home,
He had no family of his own,
But how he touched humanity
And changed the course of history.

Chorus:
One solitary life he lived,
One solitary life to show the way.
And because he came,
The world will never be the same.

And then the world would turn on him,
He was abandoned by his friends.
Condemned to die a shameful death,
He spoke forgiveness 'til his final breath.

Chorus

Of all the armies that have prevailed,
Of all the ships that have ever sailed,
Of all the kingdoms that have ruled the land,
None has changed the world like this one man.

Chorus

CCLI #1065469

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

Children's Story Time

Old Testament Reading: *Amos 9:1-12 (The Message paraphrase by Eugene Peterson)*

I saw my Master standing beside the altar at the shrine. He said: "Hit the top of the shrine's pillars, make the floor shake. The roof's about to fall on the heads of the people, and whoever's still alive, I'll kill. No one will get away, no runaways will make it. If they dig their way down into the underworld, I'll find them and bring them up. If they climb to the stars, I'll find them and bring them down. If they hide out at the top of Mount Carmel, I'll find them and bring them back. If they dive to the bottom of the ocean, I'll send Dragon to swallow them up. If they're

captured alive by their enemies, I'll send Sword to kill them. I've made up my mind to hurt them, not help them.”

My master, God-of-the-Angel-armies, touches the earth, a mere touch, and it trembles. The whole world goes into mourning. Earth swells like the Nile at flood stage; then the water subsides, like the great Nile of Egypt. God builds his palace—towers soaring high in the skies, foundations set on the rock-firm earth. He calls ocean waters and they come, then he ladles them out on the earth. God, your God, does all this.

“Do you Israelites think you're any better than the far off Cushites?” God's Decree. “Am I not involved with all nations? Didn't I bring Israel up from Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor, the Arameans from Qir? But you can be sure that I, God, the Master, have my eye on the Kingdom of sin. I'm going to wipe it off the face of the earth. Still, I won't totally destroy the family of Jacob.” God's Decree.

“I'm still giving the orders around here. I'm throwing Israel into a sieve among all the nations and shaking them good, shaking out all the sin, all the sinners. No real grain will be lost, but all the sinners will be sifted out and thrown away, the people who say, ‘Nothing bad will ever happen in our lifetime. It won't even come close.’”

“But also on that Judgment Day I will restore David's house that has fallen to pieces. I'll repair the holes in the roof, replace the broken windows, fix it up like new. David's people will be strong again and sees what's left of enemy Edom, plus everyone else under my sovereign judgment.” God's Decree. He will do this.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews: 4:12-16

God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is as sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no one can resist God's Word. We can't get away from it no matter what.

Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great high priest with ready access to God—let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Presbyterian Roots*

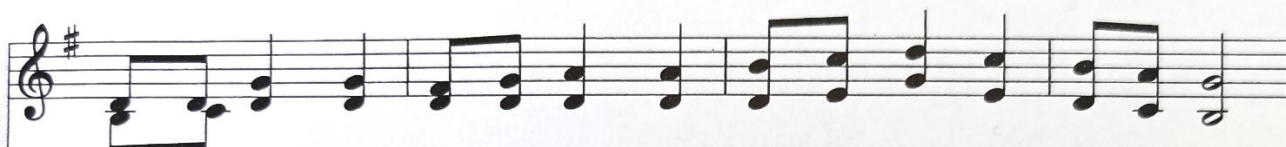
Elder Chip McCoy

Hymn: *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* (see insert)

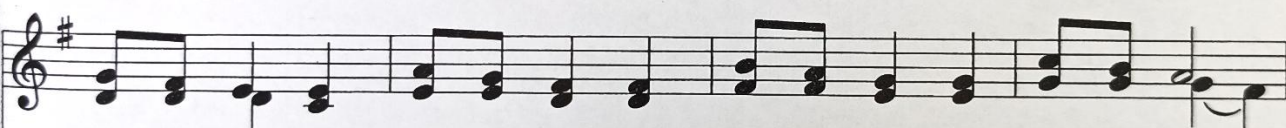
Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 293



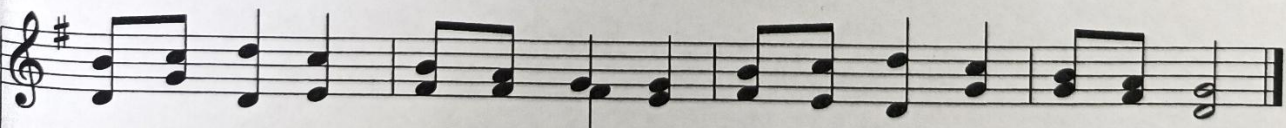
1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



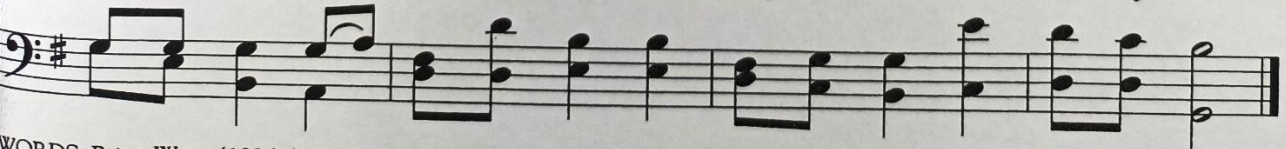
Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known.
 Je - sus is our strong com-pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na, ev - ery - one!



WORDS: Brian Wren (1936-)

MUSIC: Polish folk tune; adapt. A. E. Rusbridge (1917-1969)

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 Music Arr. © Rosalind Rusbridge

W ZLOBIE LEZY
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RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

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: Celebrate with Joy & Singing (vs. 2)*

**Honor, glory, praise, thanksgiving give we now to God above.
With the cross and grave Christ brought us, let us now return that love.
By our lives of dedication, as we teach and testify,
May we show Christ's love around us, may it grow and purify.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE

Hymn: *Because He Lives*

B & G Gaither

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Chorus:

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

Chorus

And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

Chorus

*Benediction:

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.

Response: *The Day of Resurrection* (vs. 3)

**Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.**

*Postlude

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

Happy Birthday to Jason D'Amico (1st).

Happy Anniversary to Ryan & Andrea Gracey (28th).

The Chancel Flowers were given today by Stacey Family in memory of Sara Belle & Emerson Dietrich, Sr.

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

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 – Kay Walker and Jessica & Bill Weidensall

April – Jett Owsley & Family, Zachary Sumner, Andrea Hall & Family, Mary Lynn & Bill Palmer, 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, Apr 27

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
5:00 pm AA – Findley Hall
5:30 pm Troop #16212 - Crystal

Mon, Apr 28

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

Tues, Apr 29

12:30 pm Tues. Afternoon Bible Study – Cort Rm.
5:30 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall
7:00 pm Campanile Bells
7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall
7:00 pm Counseling Group – Rm. 6
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice

Wed, Apr 30

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

Fri, May 2

5:00 pm AA – Crystal Hall

Sun, May 4

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
11:30 am Fellowship Hour
11:30 am Deacon's Meeting
4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Pastor Laura Away:** Pastor Laura will be away from April 24th through May 6th for the Presbyterian Pilgrimage to Scotland. Please make note of the following contacts in the event of a true emergency (major injury, major accident, unexpected major surgery, entering into hospice, imminent death, funerals, etc.) If an emergency occurs during office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm) please call Stratton at 412-561-6261. If an emergency occurs after office hours, please call the Chair of Administration and Personnel, Chip McCoy, at (703) 485-7901.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.