



The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 AM

5 February 2023

Welcome!!

Church of the Messiah seeks to be an inviting, welcoming, compassionate Christian community nurturing spiritual growth through the Word, our actions and gifts; thereby inspiring and uniting people to be examples of Christ's love.

The Rev. Keith A. Marsh

1001 Dekalb Pike
Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002
215-699-9204
office@messiahgwynedd.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:30-2:30

Visit Our
Website!



Thank you for worshipping with us today!
Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship!

Prelude *Allegro non molto* from *Winter* Antonio Vivaldi

Opening Hymn Sing a New World into Being

Hymn

Sing a new world into being

1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry

Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

Words: Mary Louise Bringle Music: *Nettleton*, Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second 1813 Text Copyright © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. From *Songs for the Holy Other: Hymns Affirming the LGBTQIA2S+ Community* (2020 The Hymn Society).

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria S-236

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;

You are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;

We will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;

On the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;

We will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

The Collect of the Day *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson *Isaiah 58:1-9a*

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

After the Lesson, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112:1-9

¹Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

²Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

⁴Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

Epistle *1 Corinthians 2:1-12*

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

After the Lesson, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #593 *Lord, make us servants of your peace.....final verse follows the gospel reading*

1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
 2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
 3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
 4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
 5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
 2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
 3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
 4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
 5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your

1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.
 2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
 3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
 4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.
 5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

Words: James Quinn (b. 1919), based on a prayer att. to St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). Copyright © James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division on Cassell Ltd. Music: *Dickinson College*, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979). Copyright © 1962, Theodore Presser Co. used by permission of the publisher.

The Gospel begins

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel *Matthew 5:13-20*

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel ends: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gradual Hymn #593 *Lord, make us servants of your peace.....final verse*

Sermon: The Rev. Keith A. Marsh

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:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

Prayers of the People

The congregational response to each petition: May your grace shine forth in us.

Confession & Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY *Hear the Call of the Kingdom..... Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend Dale, Sam and Marss*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & TRANSITION UPDATE

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere . . .
who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

S-124

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known . . .

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you . . .

all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

S-154

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

COMMUNION MUSIC *Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist*..... *Dietrich Buxtehude*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and be born of the virgin Mary; as you have graciously renewed us through the gifts of this sacrament served from your holy table, grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your most Holy Spirit; through your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

The Epiphany Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #613 *Thy Kingdom Come, O God!*

1 Thy king - dom come, O God! Thy rule, O Christ, be - gin!
2 Where is thy reign of peace, and pu - ri - ty, and love?
3 When comes the prom - ised time that war shall be no more,
4 We pray thee, Lord, a - rise, and come in thy great might;
5 Wher - ev - er near or far thick dark - ness brood - eth yet:

1 Break with thine i - ron rod the tyr - an - nies of sin!
2 When shall all ha - tred cease, as in the realms a - bove?
3 op - pres - sion, lust, and crime shall flee thy face be - fore?
4 re - vive our long - ing eyes, which lan - guish for thy sight.
5 a - rise, O Morn - ing Star, a - rise, and nev - er set!

Words: Lewis Hensley (1824-1905), alt. Music: *St. Cecelia*, Leighton George Hayne (1836-1883).

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude *Largo from Winter*..... *Antonio Vivaldi*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

29 January 2023

Dear Friends:

One of my favorite songs, now almost 60 years old, written by Pete Seeger and recorded by The Byrds in 1965, is "Turn, Turn, Turn". The lyrics are much older, however, originally penned by the ancient biblical poet in The Book of Ecclesiastes and one of my favorite pieces of scripture:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

You may be less familiar with the follow-on verses:

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time ...

After more than thirty years of ordained ministry, eighteen of which have been here at Church of the Messiah, my "suitable time" is now coming to an end. It is time to retire from full-time ministry and move on to a new chapter, new callings, new adventures. Therefore, my final day as Rector and my final day among you will be Sunday, June 11th.

Let us commit to holding one another, and Messiah, in mutual prayer as we move through this period of transition. Thank you for your love and support over the past years and into the future.

Blessings!

Keith

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 22ND

EUCARIST & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

12:00 NOON & 7:00 PM

This special day marks the beginning of the somber, penitential season of Lent, the 40-day period before the celebration of Easter. The season is customarily honored by fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and scripture study.

BELFRY BARGAINS NEEDS YOUR HELP Belfry Bargains is in need of Saturday volunteers! Even one Saturday a month is helpful! Please contact Diana Mulroy if you are interested in volunteering or if you would like more information: dimulroy1@gmail.com

WHERE DO THE PROCEEDS FROM BELFRY GO? *ALL of the proceeds from Belfry Bargains are donated to causes and agencies outside the parish. Every dollar raised through the sale of clothing and other goods donated to Belfry are given to support and benefit those in need within our local community, as well as across the country and the world. Here's a closer look at just two of the organizations that Belfry supports.*

Laurel House – Norristown

Laurel House was incorporated in 1981 as an independent nonprofit organization offering shelter to victims of domestic violence. Since that time, Laurel House has expanded its programs and services to become a comprehensive domestic violence agency. In addition to emergency shelter, Laurel House offers a 24-hour hotline, a text line, transitional housing, a children's program, individual and group counseling, medical advocacy, legal representation and advocacy, crisis response, law enforcement collaboration, as well as community education and prevention efforts.

<https://laurel-house.org>

Mitzvah Circle

Mitzvah Circle was created to provide items that are not covered by government assistance. Clothing, toothpaste, diapers, and deodorant are items that people need every day, but many can't afford to buy. Mitzvah Circle envisions a world in which kids and their parents do not feel less valued because they are lacking essential, daily items that many people take for granted, such as shampoo or shoes that fit. A world where women have pads and tampons so they do not have to miss school or work, and where every baby has a clean diaper.

Mitzvah Circle is located in Norristown and served over 24,000 families in 2020.

<https://mitzvahcircle.org>

PHOTOS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

We frequently take photographs in and around the church that may appear on our social media account, website and print materials. If you do not wish to be in photographs, please contact Tiffany Reichley in the church office, and we will be sure to respect your wishes!

OFFICE HOURS

Monday -Friday 9:30am-2:30pm.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to honor a loved one(s) by dedicating the altar flowers in their name, please contact the church office. The suggested donation is \$75.

SUPPORT MANNA ON MAIN STREET As you do your weekly shopping, please pick up some non-perishable food items, toiletries and cleaning supplies. These donations can be left on the back pew of the church or left outside the Rector's office door. These will then be delivered to Manna to stock their shelves for distribution to meet clients' needs.

WEEKLY PARISH EMAIL MESSAGES AND NOTIFICATIONS Each week, the Rector sends an email to all parishioners with important notifications and information about parish events and other happenings. If you are not currently receiving these messages, please contact the Church Office (215-699-9204; office@messiahgwynedd.org) so we can add you to the database.

If You Do Not Have Internet Access: Please contact the Church Office (215-699-9204; office@messiahgwynedd.org) so we can add you to the mailing list of those parishioners who receive hard copies of the messages and sermon by mail.

IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS Should you have an urgent need to contact the Rector outside of Church Office hours, please use his cell phone: 215-692-2667.

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED

- To the glory of God and our Risen Lord

BIRTHDAYS IN THE WEEK AHEAD

- Lyric Johnson
- Diana Hamilton
- Sue Costella
- Doug Shank

SERVING MESSIAH THIS MORNING

Usher

Lector and Intercessor

Marti Bender, Brenda Weir

Altar Guild

Jane Murray, Cindy Palen, Suzanne Shank

Coffee Hour Hosts

Eileen Patram, Gail Rusnak

Chimer

Brenda Weir

Altar Flowers

Nancy Alpert-Sisson

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH: February 6-February 12

Monday Church Office Hours: 9:30am-2:30pm

Tuesday Church Office Hours: 9:30am-2:30pm

AA, Alanon, Alateen – 7:30pm

Wednesday Church Office Hours: 9:30am-2:30pm

Thursday Church Office Hours: 9:30am-2:30pm

Charlotte Rogenmuser: Visitation 10:00am; Funeral 11:00am

Friday Church Office Hours: 9:30am-2:30pm

Next Sunday The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:30am Holy Eucharist, followed by Coffee Hour

9:30am Nursery Care and Church School

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH STAFF

The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector

The Rev. Bob Brown, Clergy Affiliate

The Rev. MaryJo Melberger, Clergy Affiliate

Tiffany Reichley, Parish Administrator

Sarah Patram, Bookkeeper

Hannah Albrecht, Organist & Choir Director

Tiffany Reichley, Family Ministries – Children

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH VESTRY

Barbara Stevenson, Warden

Sam Frenkel, Treasurer

Tina Madison, Clerk

Class of 2023: Tim Beaver, Jennifer Marsh, Jon Marshall, Mercer Sisson

Class of 2024: Joan Benninghoff, Lynn Mangan

Class of 2025: Sue Hess, Dale Murphy, Warren Tudgay, Cathy Wallace