

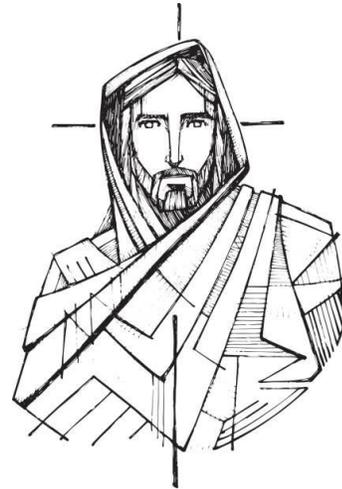
Church of the Messiah

The Sixth Sunday in Easter

22 May 2022

9:30am

Parish Mission Statement: *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.*



Prelude *Voluntary No. 2: Non troppo allegro.* John Keeble

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING HYMN # 400 *All creatures of our God and King*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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 our 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 forever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven,

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

We will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

The Collect of the Day *Sixth Sunday in Easter*

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson *Acts 16:9-15*

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

- ¹May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- ²Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
- ³Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- ⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- ⁷May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Epistle *Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5*

¹⁰And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to

shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. ¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

After the Lesson, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #517.. *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place...final verse follows the Gospel Reading*

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

The Holy Gospel *John 14:23-29*

²³Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

The Gospel closes: The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gradual Hymn #517.. *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Placefinal verse*

The Sermon:.....*The Rev. MaryJo Melberger*

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: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!!***

Exchange of the Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Hymn WLP 752..... *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

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-129

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and 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 pray:

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread & Invitation to Communion

A period of silence is kept.

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

S-157

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, **grant us thy peace.**

Sharing of Communion

COMMUNION MUSIC *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether Harold Friedell*
Chancel Choir

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Mission

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing of Prayer Shawls

The Blessing

May the truth of the empty tomb – the astonishing reality of Jesus’ resurrection – keep you fearless and sure that, with Mary Magdalene, Mary and Salome, Peter and the disciples, you too will see the Resurrected One again and again in this life, and in the age to come. May the power of God’s endless love surround you and guide you, this day and always. And may the blessing of God –
Father, Son and Holy Spirit –
be with you from this day forward.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 409 *The Spacious Firmament on High*

Dismissal

Go from this place renewed and strong, knowing that the Lord is alive, almighty and present.
Look for the blessings that await you in the week ahead.
Weep with those who weep. Rejoice with those who celebrate.
Proclaim the Good News of hope, promise and eternal life. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Nun Bitten Wir Den Heiligen Geist (We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit).....*
..... Dietrich Buxtehude

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS BEGIN THIS WEEK

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, the parish office hours change:

- Monday through Thursday, 9:30am-2:30pm
- Friday through Sunday, closed

VBS 2022: MONUMENTAL!!

Our annual VBS program will be back in person this year!! The theme is “MONUMENTAL, Celebrating God’s Greatness!” For more information and to register, head to the website. We

have lots of fun in store!! We are also in need of volunteers-so please reach out to Tiffany Reichley if you are willing to lend a hand!

A NEW WAY TO TEMPORARILY FOSTER CHILDREN IN NEED

Catholic Social Services (CSS) is actively recruiting families to welcome unaccompanied minor children into their homes. These children have come here alone from Mexico or Central America and may have experienced significant trauma. What they need are caring individuals or families willing to provide a supportive and caring home environment for 2 weeks up to 3 months, while they wait to be reunited with their family members. The children attend a daily education program located in Northeast Philadelphia. Households within about a half-hour commute commuting distance to the program would be preferable. Being able to speak some Spanish would be helpful but not required. Please contact Iris Puhiera at ipuhiera@chs-adphila.org or (267) 975-9241 for more information. And our parishioner, John Stoller, is participating in the program and is willing to speak with you about his experience.

ADDRESSING SUMMER HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY

The end of the school year is less than a month away. Families that rely on school breakfast and lunch programs for their school-age children will need kid-friendly foods throughout the summer months to feed their families. Keystone Opportunity Center in Souderton is working to meet that urgent need from mid-June to mid-August. This past month, the food pantry served families with a combined total of 156 children.

To address this issue, the Center is sponsoring a **KIDS SUMMER FOOD BAG** program. Reusable shopping bags will be filled with non-perishable food items and distributed to families in need. They estimate they will need 468 bags of kid-friendly food to keep these children fed while school is out.

Here at Messiah, we will be collecting funds to purchase requested food items (see below). Our goal is to fill at least 30 bags of food. Your donations will be used to purchase the requested food items to fill each bag. And the children attending Messiah's Vacation Bible School will assemble the food bags as a service project for delivery to the Center.

If you wish to contribute – and we hope everyone will – please make your check out to “Rector’s Discretionary Fund”; and be sure to note “Summer Food Bags” in the notation line. Our community’s children thank you for your generosity and support!

Each bag will contain the following items:

- Macaroni & cheese
- Juice boxes
- Breakfast cereal (low sugar)
- Spaghetios w/ meatballs
- Granola bars, fruit snacks, peanut butter crackers
- Peanut butter & jelly

- Pudding cups, fruit cups
- Applesauce cups
- Tuna or chicken salad kits
- Goldfish crackers, microwave popcorn
- Frisbee, bubbles, craft packets

COVID UPDATE & REMINDERS

Two weeks ago, 150 clergy of the Diocese of PA gathered in Cape May with Bishop Gutierrez. Having been cancelled for the past two years due to the pandemic, it was a wonderful time to greet old friends and welcome the new clergy who have come into the diocese over these past many months. Unfortunately, despite the requirement that all in attendance be fully vaccinated and boosted, in the days that followed the event more than 40 attendees reported that they had tested positive for the virus.

This serves as a powerful reminder that COVID is still very present and will continue to be for months and perhaps years to come. Your health and safety are of utmost importance and because Omicron and its variants are so unpredictable, it is important to revisit what we know about the virus and what steps we can take to help prevent infection.

On the bright side: The current variants, while more infectious, appear to be less virulent. This means that the illness they cause tends to be less severe. Moreover, while the vaccines may not be as effective in preventing infection by these variants, they do continue to be very effective against the risk of hospitalization and death. At the same time, it is important to bear in mind that the CDC currently classifies the entire region of our diocese as being “low risk”, meaning people, particularly those who are vaccinated, can engage in any kind of activity at their own discretion.

So what will Messiah do in light of these developments? First of all, we will not react in an alarmist manner, but thoughtfully and carefully. With the direction of the diocesan offices, we will continuously monitor the science and make adjustments to protocols as appropriate. None of these are new, but a reminder to be vigilant.

- Sunday services will continue to be held.
- While we will not require proof of full vaccination, vaccinations and boosters are highly recommended for all in attendance at church events.
- Please self-screen and stay home if you know you have been exposed or experiencing any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Loss of taste or smell

- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- If you choose to wear a mask, please wear a high-quality mask (N95, KN95, KF94), and ensure that it is properly worn (covering the nose and mouth, close fitting).
- Social distancing (more than 6 feet) is encouraged.
- Doors will remain open to allow as much airflow as possible.
- The 9:30 services will continue to be livestreamed, as well posted to the website for the week following.
- We will respect and honor the decisions of all parishioners regarding in-person attendance. No judgments.

Please, please, please - take care of yourselves - and one another. Together, with God's help and protection, we will get through this.

VESTRY UPDATES

As part of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Sunday, May 1st, retiring members were thanked for their three years of service in this important ministry of leadership and guidance within the parish. Retiring members include:

- Cheryl Berry
- Megan Myers
- Michael Stinson
- Paul Vollmar

And four new members were unanimously selected by acclamation:

- Sue Hess
- Dale Murphy
- Warren Tudgay
- Cathy Wallace

Welcome to these new individuals as they begin their three-year terms of service. We thank them for offering their time and talents, and dedicating themselves to this ministry.

Continuing to serve are the following parishioners:

- Officers: 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, Greg Honeyman, Lynn Mangan

ANNUAL MEETING RECTOR'S ADDRESS & PRESENTATIONS (finances, security system, property & grounds) are available for viewing on the parish website: messiahgwynedd.org. Copies of the handouts are available in the narthex.

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. There are lots of open Sundays for the spring and summer! The suggested donation is \$60.

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus!

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

MARCH 5-16, 2023

SPACES ARE LIMITED & BEGINNING TO FILL

You are invited to join the clergy and other pilgrims from Church of the Messiah and Trinity Church, Princeton, as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Together, we will visit places of his birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection. Our experienced personal guides will lead us in exploring ancient places, vibrant markets and modern museums in a land that is suspended between East and West, past and present.

The cost - only \$4,500.00 – includes:

- Roundtrip airfare and airport transfers
- Accommodations for 10 nights
- All taxes, tips and gratuities
- Guides and entrance fees to all sites
- Daily meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Farewell banquet
- Three evening lectures
- Daily worship opportunities

A complete itinerary and additional details can be found in the narthex. And if you have questions, please feel free to contact the Rector for more information.

A deposit of \$500.00 secures your spot! But spaces are limited and are beginning to fill. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity for travel, education, inspiration, and fellowship!

UPDATE: AID FOR UKRAINE

Thank you to all who have generously donated items for Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief! We recently delivered a literal truck load of diapers, protein bars, personal hygiene items, Tylenol and other necessities to the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great, located at Manor College in Jenkintown. While this group continues to collect donations to be shipped to Ukraine, support in the form of fundraising is now preferred to enable more immediate in-country help.

Therefore, we will discontinue collecting physical donations and ask that you please visit the following sites. These sites offer safe and vetted ways for you to make a difference!

Amazon link - frequently updated with current urgent needs

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XJRDF6MJQDC8?ref=wl_share

Support Manor College (The Sisters of Saint Basil the Great)
<https://manor.edu/about/supportukraine/>

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center
<https://www.ueccphila.org/>

Episcopal Relief & Development
www.episcopalrelief.org

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 & 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
- In honor of Lee Mangan's Birthday by Lynn Mangan

BIRTHDAYS IN THE WEEK AHEAD

- J.T. Stavely
- Janice Zintner
- Neil Brady
- Jameson Reichley
- Effie Alpert
- Nancy Alpert-Sisson
- Tom Mangan

SERVING MESSIAH THIS MORNING

Usher

Lector and Intercessor

Videographer

Altar Guild

Coffee Hosts

Chimer

Marti Bender, Barbara Stevenson

Sam Frenkel

Melanie Baker, Sara Sablosky, Brenda Weir, Cynthia
Curtis

Vickie Fogel, Margaret Harkins, Peg Kleppinger

Brenda Weir

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH: May 23-May 29

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

Friday Church Office Closed

Next Sunday Seventh Sunday in Easter

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:30am Holy Eucharist, followed by Coffee Hour

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, Greg Honeyman, Lynn Mangan

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

