

HEIDELBERG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
251 PERKIOMEN AVENUE, SCHWENKSVILLE, PA 19473
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
HOLY COMMUNION
SERVICE CONDUCTED ON FACEBOOK LIVE & IN-PERSON WORSHIP
MAY 2, 2021

Today's Thought:

"We are never nearer Christ than when we find ourselves lost in a holy amazement at His unspeakable love."
~ John Owen

Centering Words:

Christ is the vine. We are the branches. Abide in the vine, and you will abide in love.

* = Stand in Body or Spirit

GATHERING TOGETHER

Ringing the Bell

10:30am

Welcome

Pastor Adrian

Prelude

"Where Your Treasure Is"

Vocalists: Christie Lohr
Isabella Yackanicz

Call to Worship

L: Come to Christ, the true vine, and bear much fruit.

P: We have come to abide in the vine, and to bear the fruit of salvation.

L: Come to love one another, for love is of God.

P: We have come to the household of love, for God is love.

L: Come to set aside your fears, for perfect love drives out fear.

P: We have come to love one another, as God has loved us.

L: Come! All are welcome here.

Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Adrian

* Opening Hymn

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

(Sung to "Hymn to Joy" hymn tune)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise; Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise. Jesus on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled; But the crucified Redeemer now is risen from the dead!

Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born; Glorious life, and life immortal on this holy Easter morn; Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by God's liberating deed; Now the Christ with us abiding to eternal life shall lead.

Christ is risen, we are risen; shed upon us heavenly grace, Rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of your face; That we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be, And by angel hands be gathered, and be yours eternally.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to the God of joy; Alleluia to the Savior who came death's bonds to destroy; Alleluia to the Spirit, Found of love and sanctity; Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.

* Call to Confession

Pastor Adrian

The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep within us, so they can bear fruit in our lives. But we resist staying connected to the Vine, thinking we can flourish on our own. Let us confess our sins, so we can once more feel God abiding deep within us. Confident in God's grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another ...

* Prayer of Confession – Silent Prayer

Source of love and life, your glory knows no bounds. We yearn to set aside our fears, but we are often afraid. We long to love our sisters and brothers, but we often feel alienated from them. We desire to abide in you as you abide in us, but we can't seem to figure out how some days. Show us once more how to love, for only love can cast out our fear. Show us how to love one another well, for only then can we truly know you. Show us how to abide in your vine, for only then can we bear the fruit that glorifies your name. Abide in us, Vine Grower. Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Amen.

[Silent Prayer]

* Words of Assurance

Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God's love is alive, beating, breathing – in you! Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God's love to bear fruit in us. Rejoice in God's mercy and hear clearly the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Hymn of Praise

“Halle-Halle-Halleluja” (x2)

Halle-Halle-Halleluja. Halle-Halle-Halleluja. Halle-Halle-Halleluja. Halleluja. Halleluja.

Children's Chat

“Staying Connected”

Special Music

“Abide With Me”

Vocalist: Tina Richards

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Liturgist

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Lessons (NRSV)

Liturgist

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* Gospel Lesson (NRSV)

Pastor Adrian

John 15:1-18

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

* Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon

“Connected to Christ”

Rev. Adrian Tierson

Hymn

“Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing”

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, may we ripen and increase, fruit to life eternal growing, rich in love and joy and peace. Laden branches freely bearing gifts the Giver loves to bless; here is fruit that grows by sharing, patience, kindness, gentleness.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal, teach us, as the years fly faster, goodness, faith and self-control. Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, may we grow till harvests cease; till we taste, in life unending, heaven's love and joy and peace.

SHARING FAITH & LIFE

Joys, Concerns & Announcements

Pastor Adrian

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Adrian

Call to Offering

Pastor Adrian

All good things come from God, the giver of life. We are called as stewards of God's gifts to share in fulfillment of God's purposes for creation. As stewards of the kingdom of God, let us give from our abundance with thanksgiving.

* Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

Bountiful God, may these gifts be instruments of your grace and may our very lives be the means of spreading your blessings. Make these gifts be for the world a sign of your boundless love and your overflowing abundance. Amen.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

*"Christ, You Often Sat at Dinner" (Verses: 1,3, 5)
(Sung to "Beach Spring" hymn tune)*

**Christ, you often sat at dinner with the outcasts and the poor;
You reached out to every sinner, sharing bread and wine and more —
You proclaimed that God's great table is a joyful, welcome place;
No one wears an outcast label or is turned away from grace.**

**Lord, you blessed a meal and shared it, giving meanings that were new:
"It's my body; take and eat it! It's my blood poured out for you!"
Risen Christ, they knew your presence in the breaking of the bread;
In that meal was God's abundance: All remembered! All were fed!**

**Christ, we know that you are able to bring healing through your cross;
Bring together at your table all for whom you paid the cost.
Though the feasting in your kingdom may still seem so far away,
May we share your meal of welcome as we wait that glorious day.**

Preparing the Table

Pastor Adrian

***Note to Guests:** Through the waters of baptism; we are born into Christ's family. That family is nourished and sustained at this table. Though we are baptized but once, in the Lord's Supper we reaffirm our commitment to Christ, and God renews us with grace. This is the joyful feast of the people of God! Our Savior invites everyone to share the feast, which he has prepared.*

INVITATION

L: Christ's table is spread for all of us—a place of gathering, of fellowship and of praise. Let us rejoice as we respond to God's gracious invitation to receive these gifts of Christ's body and blood that we may be strengthened to live as faithful disciples.

PRAYER

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

L: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

L: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

REMEMBERING

L: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you, God, raised Jesus from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

L: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

L: Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

P: Amen.

L: With Christ's words on our lips and in our hearts, we pray:

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.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

(The pastor lifts and breaks the bread and pours and lifts the cup)

(Virtual instruction: We will serve the elements to those physically present. While this is taking place have your elements prepared at home. Once all are served we will lift the elements **together** and **say**, **“These are the gifts of God for the people of God.”** The pastor will continue, “come, for all things are ready!” We will then share in this sacred meal together, at the pastor’s prompting.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION IS SERVED

God of all fruitfulness, we thank you for giving us the true vine, Jesus Christ. We know that Christ abides in us by the Spirit given to us. Separated from Christ we can do nothing. Enable us to love one another, not only in word, but in truth and action, just as Christ has commanded us. We ask this in the name of our Savior. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD

* Closing Hymn

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

* Benediction

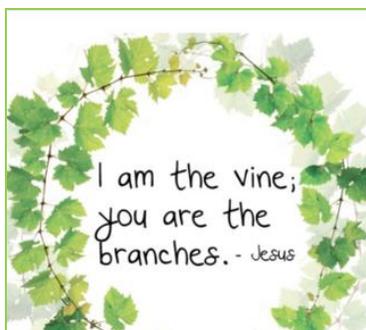
Pastor Adrian

* Final Response

“First Song of Isaiah”

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense and he will be my Savior.

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All other times by appointment

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY
Arrangements	Joan Lauman	Joan Lauman
Head Usher	Joe Giunta	Joe Giunta
Acolyte	Jacob McDowell	Rose Waldron
Liturgist	Penny Berger	Nancy Woodrow
Song Leader	Tina Richards	Tina Richards
Greeters	Carol Slater-Kline & Bob Butz	Penny Berger
Technology	Doug MacWade & Brian Pippert	Doug MacWade & Brian Pippert
Nursery Care	None	Jocelyn Beideman

Welcome to Heidelberg! Whatever your past, whatever your religious background, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome. Join us for a spiritual journey where God is still speaking. Enter as a guest, depart as a friend.

Youth Sunday School - Classes will be held **TODAY**. Classes are held during the 10:30am worship service following the Children’s Chat.

Nursery Care - The Nursery will be available **NEXT SUNDAY**. Nursery is offered on the 2nd , 4th & 5th Sundays following the Children’s Chat.

Online Donations - If you would like to make a one-time or recurring donation to the ministry of Heidelberg UCC, we have a new and simple way to do that by credit/debit card or by connecting your paypal account right through Facebook. Just click the “Donate” button at the top right of our Facebook Page and follow the very easy steps. Thank you for your support and generosity.

AmazonSmile - AmazonSmile is very simple to use—all you need is an Amazon account. On your first visit to the site, you will be asked to log in to your Amazon account with an existing username and password (you do not need a separate account for AmazonSmile). You will then be prompted to choose a charity to support. During future visits to the site, AmazonSmile will remember your charity and apply eligible purchases towards your total contribution—it is that easy. **You can find an easy link on our website (www.hucc.net) homepage (lower right column). Click, shop and support!**

BBQ Beef Brisket Drive-Thru Fundraiser - As we did last fall, we will be offering a drive-thru Brisket Dinner on **Saturday, May 22nd from 3-5pm**. The meal includes: Brisket, Roll, Baked Potato, Coleslaw, butter and Dessert. The cost is \$10/ticket. You can call the church office for tickets, pick them up on Sunday morning or see a member of Consistory. A portion of proceeds will go directly to the Daily Bread Food Pantry.

Spring Work Day (Part 2) - Thanks to all who participated in our first spring cleanup effort. Now it's time to plant a few annuals, spread a bit of mulch, do a little more preparation for the last phase of our multi-year landscaping project, and perhaps make some other small improvements. The property committee invites you to join them on **Saturday, May 8th** to help in this effort. Look for other improvement projects to be done this spring, including some masonry pointing, painting, sealing of the parking lot, and more!

Mission Sunday May 16th - Our church has been regularly active in our Missions. Lately, since the Pandemic, most of the Missions that we have been doing is for the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Collegeville. We are proud of our work, time, and donations that we provide for this necessary Mission. On Missions Sunday, we will have the Directors of Daily Bread Food Pantry, Joel and Loretta Stever, here to speak about the Food Pantry. They will talk about how the pandemic has affected the pantry, changed their way of doing business and seeing clients and what the future holds for the pantry. We hope that you will join us, live in the sanctuary or online. The yearly MISSIONS SUNDAY monies collected will also be donated to Daily Bread. We appreciate your continued support.

Ladies Luncheon - If you are interested in joining our gatherings on the first Monday of the month please give Diane McFarland a call 610-287-8079.

Prayer Requests - please e-mail the church office with any prayer concerns and we will keep our prayer list updated.