



The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church
72 West Franklin St. Bellbrook, Ohio 45305
937-848-2378
www.bellbrookpc.com

Worship for Sunday, May 2, 2021 10:00 a.m.
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Our mission: Embracing the Community with God's Love, Providing a Home for
Spiritual Nurture & Worship, Reaching Out to Those in Need, Growing through
Service to Others*

Welcome to worship on this beautiful spring day that the Lord has made!
“Let us rejoice today and be glad” (Psalm 118:24, NIV).

We Prepare

Prelude

“The Rejoicing”

Handel

The Life of the Church

Lighting of the candles

One: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

All: We welcome the light of Christ into our worship.

Sung Prayer of Preparation “Be Not Afraid”

Purple # 243

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

***Call to Worship**

One: Let us acknowledge the company in which we meet: the church on earth and in heaven; the faithful who worshipped here before us; the hundreds of thousands of every place and language who, on the Lord's day, seek to set their lives within the atmosphere of renewing grace.

All: As we think of them, let us take deliberate encouragement from our unity with them all.

***Hymn of Praise**

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Purple #403 v. 1

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer; O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light and grace.

***Call to Confession**

Let us confess our sins to the One whose eyes are open day and night to heed our cry and our prayer.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

One: Across the barriers that divide race from race:

All: reconcile us, O Christ, by Your cross.

One: Across the barriers that divide rich from poor:

All: reconcile us, O Christ, by Your cross.

One: Across the barriers that divide people of different cultures:

All: reconcile us, O Christ, by Your cross.

One: Across the barriers that divide Christians:

All: reconcile us, O Christ, by Your cross.

One: Across the barriers that divide men and women, young and old:

All: reconcile us, O Christ, by Your cross. Confront us, O Christ, with the hidden prejudices and fears that deny and betray our prayers. Enable us to see the causes of strife, remove from us all senses of being better than our brother or sister. Teach us to grow in unity with all God's children. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. People of God, all of us together have received God's mercy in Christ. In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and made to be a community united in faith. Thanks be to God.

All: Amen.

***Congregational Response**

“Gloria Patri”

Red # 622

*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.*

***Declaration of Trust and the Peace**

One: Congregation of Jesus Christ, in whom are you trusting?

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

One: Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: And also with you.

One: *Please take a moment to greet your immediate neighbors.*

We Hear

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. By your Holy Spirit, let your words pierce our darkness, strengthen our faith, and illumine our witness for you.

Amen.

New Testament Reading

Colossians 3:1-17

3 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

New Testament Reading

Acts 15:1-18

15 Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. ³ So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

⁶ The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early

days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸ And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹ and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰ Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

¹² The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, “My brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. ¹⁵ This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

¹⁶ ‘After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,

¹⁷ so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.
Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things ¹⁸ known from long ago.’

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Message

“The Church – Bigger Than All of Us”

Rev. Diane Ziegler

We Respond

***Hymn of Affirmation** “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” Purple, # 829, v. 1
My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly thine!

***Affirmation of Faith— Heidelberg Catechism, Q and A 54-55**

One: What do you believe concerning "the holy catholic church"?

All: **I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself**

**a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith.
And of this community I am and always will be a living member.**

One: What do you understand by "the communion of saints"?

**All: First, that believers one and all, as members of this community,
share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts.
Second, that each member should consider it a duty
to use these gifts readily and cheerfully
for the service and enrichment of the other members.**

Prayers of the People

Sung Response to Prayers "Thine Is The Glory" Purple # 238, v. 1
*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes where thy
body lay. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death
hast won.*

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Our God has bestowed us with favor and honor through Christ, who has given us the words of eternal life. From this fullness, let us now offer our gifts of thanksgiving in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

*(Offering plates are located at the front and back of the sanctuary or we
invite you to give online using this QR code.)*



Offertory "Look, Ye Saints, The Sight Is Glorious" William Owen

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

***Prayer of Dedication/Offering (unison)**

**Living God, we give You thanks for Christ, the bread from heaven, through whom
we offer these gifts. Endow these gifts with Your power, that they may express
Your steadfast love and impart Your sustaining strength to all those in need.
Amen.**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

One: O Lord our God, how great are Your works..... Save us, Lord! We call upon Your name:

All: 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.

One: Lord God, we have seen Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.....
Great is the mystery of faith:

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

One: Fill this place with Your Holy Spirit like the rush of a mighty wind, like a consuming fire.....Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

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

Distribution of the Elements

(please partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup for us to partake together)

Prayer After Communion

Gracious God, we thank You for the love that brings us food from heaven gives us the life of Your dear Son, and assures us that we belong to the company of all His faithful people in heaven and on earth. Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may continue the work of Christ in this world. Amen.

We Go

***Parting Hymn** “In Christ There Is No East or West” Purple, #318, v. 1
In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

***Carrying the Light**

One: As we go forth to serve,

All: We carry the light of Christ into the world.

***Benediction**

*** Sung Benediction** “Now Go In Joy” Purple, # 745
Now go in joy to spread the Word till all people have heard: God embraces all!
Follow, then, the disciples’ call: tend your neighbors with loving care in daily work and prayer. God’s own grace empower your spirit. Amen!

Postlude “Now God Be Praised in Heaven Above” Melchoir Vulpius
(Sanctuary worshippers, please be seated for the postlude.)

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Office hours the week of May 3:

Monday 10- 2; Wednesday 10-2 -***Please call before coming into the office.***

Pastor Diane will be on vacation Monday, May 3rd through Sunday, May 16th.

Prayers

Bob Honaker- Family of Harold Frasure- Jan and David Townsend- Marlys Circle-Family of Bob Morris-Family of Verna Mae Rhodes-Cathy Rouch- Family of Ron Vaughn- George Walker- Staff and children in school-The Alternative school and staff- Mary Jo Zoller-Brian Koch-Those with estranged loved ones-Those who are sick and those who are dealing with anxiety-Health Care Professionals, Emergency Responders and Grocery Store Employees-Betty Cornette-Barb Wagner- Charlotte Downing-Alzheimer Patients-Cancer Patients-Caregivers -COVID patients and people in quarantine.