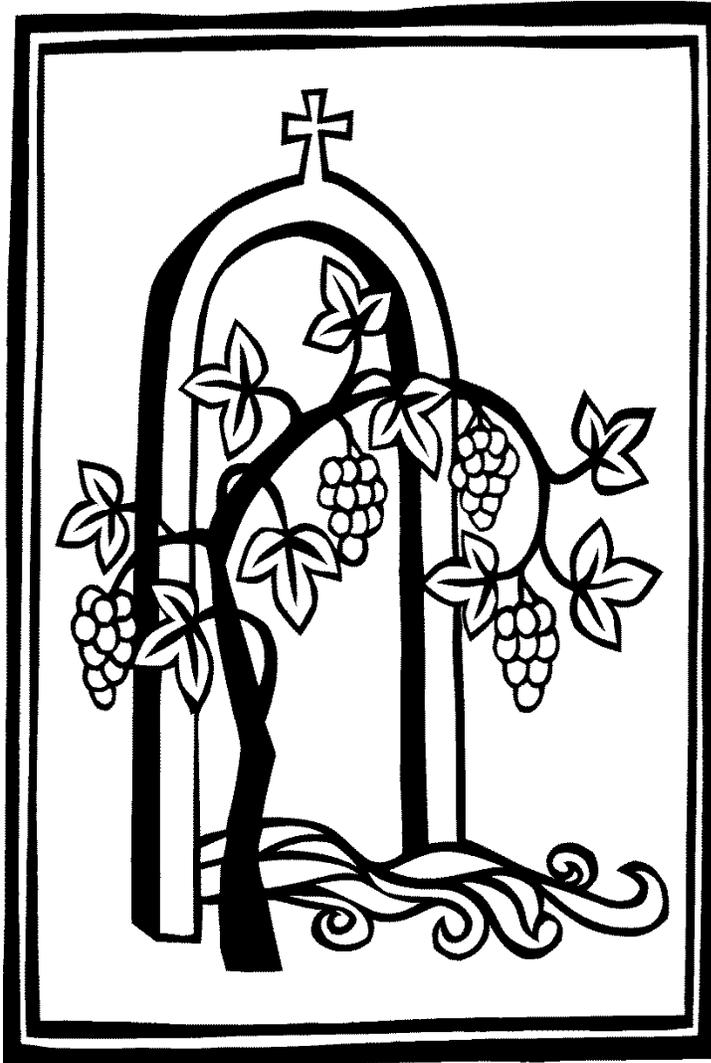


*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

The service will be livestreamed at 10:45 am on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. There is no pre-recording of the service on YouTube this week.

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: MessiahMech@gmail.com; Website: MessiahMech.com

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today. You are invited to make Messiah your church home.

EASTER GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: ***He is risen, indeed! Alleluia***

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

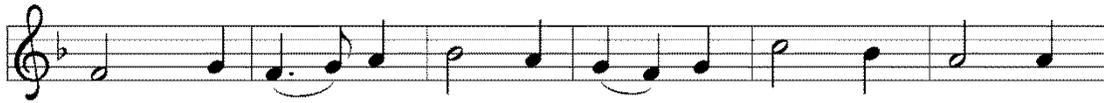
P: Gracious God,

C: ***have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



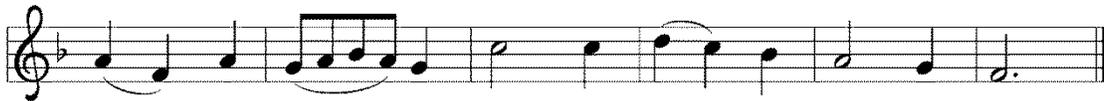
earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty,
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Acts 10:44-48

Lector

A reading from Acts.

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 5:1-6

Lector

A reading from 1 John.

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

What do the following statements have in common? “Put your dishes in the sink.” “Do your homework.” “Put your clothes away.” “Use your words.” “Be nice to your siblings.” “Don't slam the door!” “Wash your hands.” “Get that out of your mouth.” Any guesses?

If you guessed, “Things parents say to their kids on a regular basis,” you are correct! Whether you are a parent or have someone who parented you – so that should cover everyone – you've either heard these directions or given them or both. And they are familiar because you've heard or said them many, many times.

Parents repeat themselves. A lot. They issue the same rules, day after day. They give the same reminders, day after day. They make the same requests, day after day. It gets frustrating at times. But the repetition is necessary. Human beings in general, and kids in particular, need repetition to learn, to retain, to grow. I heard somewhere that people need to see or hear something twenty-seven times before they really register it. So get ready for a longer announcements time.

Back to parents and kids – you put up with the repetition and the frustration because that's how you shape and form your kids. You keep doing those same rules and reminders and requests, day after day, because you want to raise good humans. And because you love them, and want what's best for them. So you teach and reinforce how to be responsible, and clean, and kind, and respectful. How to be patient. How to share. How to handle conflict, or failure, or success. All of it. You repeat these things so that you instill the values you want to pass on.

It's Mother's Day today; I don't think I can tell you the individual things that my own mother had to repeat to me. I know that as I got older there was a lot about not procrastinating; I'm still working on that one. I'll tell you about it later. But even if I can't remember the little things, I know the overall effect of her love and persistence on me, and that I'm so much better for it.

Our Bible readings today might seem a little repetitive. Things we've heard the last couple of weeks already. And they seem that way because they are. John's Gospel and the letters of John do that, a lot. Lots of repetition, lots of talking in circles. And we've had readings from John, 1 John, or both for the last five weeks. Like our moms, God – our heavenly parent – needs to get repetitive with us, too. No matter how many times we hear God's commandments, Jesus's teachings, the wisdom of the scriptures, it's like we just don't get it. We aren't always listening, or understanding, or paying attention. Or we roll our eyes – “ok, ok, I know. Gosh!” And so God keeps giving us the same rules and reminders and requests, day after day, to shape us and raise us into the good humans God wants us to be.

We've already heard that Jesus commands us to love one another the way he loves us. We've already heard that love is laying down your life for your friends, for anyone. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lays down his life for us; we should lay down our lives for one another.

We've already heard that Jesus wants us to abide in him as he abides in us, as he abides in the Father. We've already heard that Jesus wants us to maintain our connection to him, to his word, to his commandments, to his teachings, to his love – vines to the branches. We've already heard that Jesus wants us to bear fruit, the fruit that lasts, the fruit of his love come to full ripeness in us and given away to the world.

We've already heard that we can't do anything without Christ abiding in us. Christ makes all of this fully known to us, just as we are fully known by him.

The shepherd knows the sheep, and the sheep know the shepherd. God has given us all we need, through Christ.

We've already heard about how the Holy Spirit spread this message of love beyond its original borders – to the crowds who joined the shouts of “Crucify him!”; to the chief priests who rejected Christ the cornerstone; to the Gentiles in the Roman soldier's house today; to the Ethiopian eunuch on the wilderness road last week. All the sheep. We've already heard that the fruit we bear isn't just for those of our choosing; the Holy Spirit will spread the love of Christ far and wide, into and beyond our own comfort zones, until all hear about the persistent, patient, love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Spirit will keep reminding and repeating it until we hear it, believe it, live it, share it.

Why are we hearing all of this again? Because we need to. Because the world needs to. Because we, like children, are forgetful and distracted and in need of rules, reminders, and requests, every day. Because we still roll our eyes or talk back or get whiney or whatever else. We need God to teach us and shape us and mold us into good humans.

Be kind to your siblings (in Christ). Use your words: to show love and to testify to the gospel. Clean up your messes: seek forgiveness. Put your hard-heartedness away. Don't slam the door on reconciliation. Wash your hands of grudges and hatred. Do your work of laying down your life, knowing that Jesus will raise you up through the waters of baptism. Get that meanness out of your mouth, out of your heart, and abide in Christ.

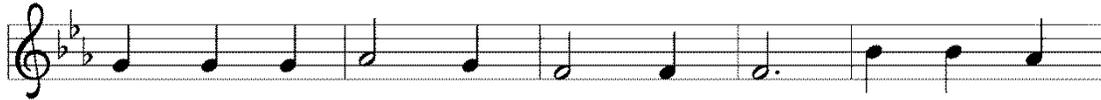
“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” So listen to your parent! Even more, Jesus calls us friends. No longer servants, but friends. Jesus chooses us; we don't, and can't, choose him. Not on our own. The Holy Spirit swoops in to make it happen before we even open our mouths. Jesus teaches us and loves us and lays down his life for us so that his joy may be in us – abide in us – and so that our joy may be complete – full, ripe, and abundant. God does not withhold promises or grace or goodness from us. God wants what's best for us.

God is repetitive with us just like our moms, and any parental-type folks in our lives – our repetitive with us. To shape us. To help us. To teach us. And it isn't only rules and requests and reminders that God repeats. The other thing parents tend to say every day is the thing that God repeats most of all: “I love you.”

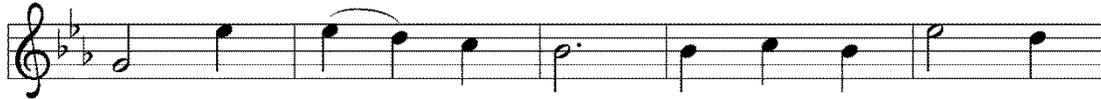
It's Mother's Day. So honor your mothers or any other parent-type folks by listening to them. You should do that every day anyway; but try extra hard today. They put up with a lot for you; they do a lot for you; they want what's best for you; and they love you.

And then apply all of that to God: honor God by listening to these repeated teachings and commandments. Do your best to live them out, every day, with the Spirit's help. God puts up with a lot for you; God has done everything for you. God wants what's best for you. And God loves you. And I can't repeat that enough. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY O Master, Let Me Walk with You



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. [*Brief silence*]

A: Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering (especially). Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying (especially). Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: God, you are life. We pray for our world, our country, our community, and our church as we face the challenges of coronavirus. We pray for those who grieve the loss of loved ones, for the sick and their families, for those fearful of an unknown future. We pray for the millions of unemployed, for children and others at home - that they be safe from abuse. We pray for those who are alone and isolated during this time that they may feel your loving presence. We pray for all the hospital and health care workers, and all first responders, that they receive needed supplies and be kept protected in the work they do. We pray for those making decisions about how to live into the future and when that will happen. Keep us all in your care as we wait for a new day. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all families, you have given us families to be sanctuaries of blessing, comfort, and love for each other. Under your protection fill us with harmony, hope, and health. We pray this week for the Carr, Cline and Collie families as well as our Messiah family. Guard all of our hearts that we may display love instead of hate, anger, or bitterness. Lead us all to be grateful for your abiding love and enable us to glorify you by sharing that love with others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,*

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: *Christ has died.*

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: *Come, Holy Spirit.*

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: *Come, Holy Spirit.*

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: *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.***

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

COMMUNION

A: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: *Amen*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

A: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have received strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: *Amen*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: **Amen**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen**

SENDING SONG Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



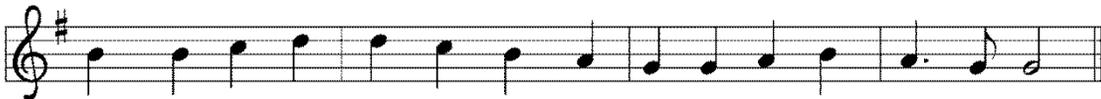
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - jice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, May 9, 2021

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder (2nd Lay Asst.) Anita Philp
Lectors: Anita Philp
Acolyte: Karoline Combs
Ushers: Jake Addair & Gordon Gunn
Altar Guild: Marilyn Gunn & Donna Combs
Counters: Jake & Sharon Addair

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan's office hours for this week are listed below. You can also reach Pastor Ryan via email at messiahmechpr@gmail.com or by phone at 507-360-7276 if you'd like to talk or set up an appointment.

Wednesday-Friday 11:00 am-4:00 pm

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Here is this week's information based on our 2021 budget.

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,000.19 (slightly down from \$3,109.03 through May 2, 2021).
- We are \$16,698.50 behind the year-to-date budget needs (increasing from \$13,977.50 the last time reported).
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00

WORSHIP OUTSIDE YOUR CAR

Our new step forward in this long journey is that you are all invited to worship outside your car! Please bring your own chair(s), and stick to the following guidelines:

- Sit in front of your cars
- Maintain social distancing between your car's occupants and other cars' occupants (don't mix households).
- If you visit before or after the service, wear a mask or face-covering.
- You should be able to hear everything from the amp that's set up for the livestream.
- Check the weather ahead of time and dress/do sun-prep accordingly.
- Keep in mind that this is also a gauge: if you can handle this, it shows you can handle coming back in the building when the time comes. (:

We're excited to try this out before the weather really turns hot and humid. And maybe we can hear each other singing! If you have any questions, please check in with your Church Council members or Pastor Ryan.

MCEF FUN-RAISER AT CHICKEN SALAD CHICK FOR MAY 17

The "Fun Raiser" at Chicken Salad Chick continues on the 3rd Monday of each month, mention that you support MCEF and 10% of the sale is donated to MCEF. Thank you for your support of your of your neighbors in need through MCEF

MCEF UPDATE

Mechanicsville residents in need are being served with food, clothing, linens, and financial assistance for qualified services throughout this year of Covid. The Senior Rides program has been awarded a grant which will help to rebuild the program post-Covid. Rides are continuing to be offered. MCEF was gifted 4 cemetery plots at Signal Hill Cemetery which are available for a donation. If interested, call Pat Hubert, 814-449-2612. Current needs of the One Stop Shop include canned peaches, black-eyed peas, jelly of any flavor and mayonnaise. Clothing needs are knit boxer briefs for men, kids' underwear in all sizes and women's' underwear in average sizes, all new please. Thank you to all for your generous donations.

2021 JOAN BARNES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

We are pleased to announce that the applications for the Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarship will be available beginning May 3, 2021. Please go to the church website, <https://messiahmech.com/> and click on the "About" tab. The Application(s) and Application Information for the scholarships will be found on the drop-down menu. Applications should be received or postmarked on or before the absolute deadline of June 21, 2021 with no exceptions. There are applications for first time applicants and a different application if you have received a previous scholarship. You can contact Sally Bennett at sallybennett3317@gmail.com if you have any questions.

ONE CHAPTER WONDERS

Tune in this week for our second Midweek Message from "One Chapter Wonders." This week: Philemon. Maybe you've heard of a "one-hit wonder"? You know, a band that only ever had just one big hit? Well, there are five books of the Bible that are only one chapter long (and one more that's only two). Each week you'll get a bite-sized Bible study on one of these books, that will hopefully still fill you up. 😊

INFORMATION ON VACCINATIONS

The Virginia Department of Health recently released a downloadable Virginia COVID Info Toolkit with information on vaccines and the vaccine registration system. You can access the information at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/patient-education/>. If you need to register for the vaccine, confirm your registration, or update your record, go to: <https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/>

SMALL GROUPS

If you'd like to have a small group or committee meeting at the church, please check out the Small Group Meetings and Cleaning Protocols. You can contact Davina when wanting to schedule a time for your group to meet and get the latest protocols. The only areas open at this time include the Fellowship Hall, the hallway to

the restrooms, and the restrooms. All other parts of the building remain 'closed' for now. There are also copies of the forms at church on the kitchen counter for you to use at your meeting along with necessary cleaning supplies. Davina will maintain the completed forms in her office. Thanks for all you do! Stay well everyone!

REBUILD! VA – SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

All available funds for the Rebuild VA Grant Program have been exhausted at this time. They are hopeful that Congress will soon pass a stimulus package that provides additional relief to small businesses. To be notified of any additional developments, please sign up at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7TRWMD6>.

VIRGINIA RENT AND MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM (RMRP)

The Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP) is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic. Depending on availability of funds and household need, the RMRP may provide financial assistance for rent payments for eligible households. This includes financial assistance for rent payments past due beginning April 1, 2020 and onward. For more information please visit: Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD): www.dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp.

SMILE! MESSIAH RECEIVES .5% DONATION WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!

Even though the most recent holiday shopping season is behind us, the Stewardship team would like to remind everyone to sign up and use Amazon Smile! Signing up is easy and does not interfere with Prime Membership benefits. Amazon donates .5% of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Step 1: visit smile.amazon.com; Step 2: sign in with your amazon account credentials; Step 3: Search for "Messiah Lutheran Church Mechanicsville"; Step 4: Start SHOPPING! *please remember to bookmark smile.amazon.com for easy access every time you shop. You must add the "smile" for this program. Thank you all and happy shopping!