

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

Roll Down Justice

SUNDAY July 28, 2024

Holy Communion 10 am



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Introduction

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we commit to lifting up the voices of all people. Today's justice worship was created by people for a variety of backgrounds, cultures and to lift up the message through the many communities within the ELCA. Some of the scripture is from the indigenous community, prayers from people of color and prayers written by people who are LBGT+. Through the gospels, we use Jesus' ministry as an example of how to live our faith. Jesus included those who were pushed to the margins of society and celebrated who each of us are as children of God. May we all pray for faith, love and hope through the lens and love of Christ.

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
121 N. SPRING STREET, MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057
Sunday Worship 10:00am and Wednesday 10:00am

**THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH
THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE**

St. Peter's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ congregation joining with Reconciling Works.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome and invite all of God's people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or economic status.

SERVING OUR CHURCH

July 28th, 2024

Preaching & presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth

Reader:

PRELUDE: Raise Up *by Semler*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL MEDITATION: Make A Difference *by Rachel Kurtz*

GATHERING:

In the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer,
✠ and the Sanctifier, whose voice reverberated in blazing bush,
and whose image reflects our sacred belonging and purpose.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism; we are held so close by God's endless compassion and transformation, which flow like an unfailing stream. God's generous gift of water is for all God's beloveds. While remembering that water is restorative, that precious resource as it is, water is used for healing, washing, playing, nurturing, cleansing, and in many traditions and communities' water is used in spiritual practices, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

Presider -We give thanks for the breath that hovered over resounding waters and spoke life into being.

For the great flood that proclaimed God's promise through rainbow-colored brilliance.

For the sea that split open our thirst for power, control, and dominance. We give thanks for the One who transformed water into wine and then yearned to share it with those that society said disenfranchised.

We give thanks for the gift of baptism and this not-particularly-special water that came from a faucet proclaims that *you, me, WE ALL* are beloved children of God, and nothing can separate us from that love of God made known through Jesus.

Cleanse our fears. Drown our divisions. Let us die to a life that pulls us from your relentless love and let us rise to a life that says yes, and...

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. And all God's people say,

All Amen!

GATHERING SONG: Shout to the Lord ELW 821

THE GREETING

The grace of the One who redeemed and redeems us from binaries, the love, mercy, and justice of the One who created all beyond our wildest dreams and called it all GOOD, and the wisdom of the One who challenges us to go and do likewise be with you all

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray (*brief silence*),

Holy and Living God, we open to you this day. May peace flow and let justice roll down like an ever-flowing stream. Open our eyes and help us to see that no one is outside your love; outside our love. Remind us that we are not alone thanks to your abiding presence and the ministry of ReconcilingWorks and the Reconciling in Christ program, through Jesus Christ, the free gift of grace. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING *Amos 5:21-24*

I despise and reject your feasts! I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies!

When you offer me burnt offerings, I reject your oblations, and refuse to look at your sacrifices of fattened cattle!

Spare me the racket of your chanting! Relieve me of the strumming of your harps!

Instead, let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream.

ANTHEM

SECOND READING: *Romans 8: 31-39*

What should be our response? Simply this: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” Since God did not spare the Only Begotten but gave Christ up for the sake of us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will freely give us everything. Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? Since God is the One who justifies, who has the power to condemn? Only Christ Jesus, who died—or rather, was raised—and sits at the right hand of God, and who now intercedes for us! What will separate us from the love of Christ? Trouble? Calamity? Persecution? Hunger? Nakedness? Danger? Violence?

As scripture says, “For your sake, we’re being killed all day long; we’re looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.” Yet in all this, we are more than conquerors because of God who has loved us.

For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither heights nor depths—nor anything else in all creation—will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

Please stand as you are able.

ACCLAMATION: *Get Together by the Youngbloods*

GET TOGETHER

Come on, people now Smile on your brother

Everybody get together Try to love one another right now

Come on, people now Smile on your sister

Everybody get together Try to love one another right now

Come on, people now Smile on your sister
Everybody get together Try to love one another right now

The Gospel according to Luke, the tenth chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord.

GOSPEL *Luke 10:25-37*

A SLY SCROLL KEEPER SETS A TRAP

A scroll keeper, one who was skilled in his knowledge of tribal law, came to Creator Sets Free (Jesus) to test him and trap him in his words. “Wisdomkeeper,” he said. “What path must I Walk to have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony?” He answered him, “What is written in our tribal law about this? Tell me, how do you see it?” The scroll keeper spoke from the words of the law, “You must love the Great Spirit from deep within, with the strength of your arms, the thoughts of your mind, and the courage of your heart, and you must love your fellow human beings in the same way you love yourselves.” “You have answered well,” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said back to him. “If you walk this path, you will live.” But the scroll keeper, wanting to look good to others, asked him, “Who are my fellow human beings?”

HE TURNS THE TRAP WITH A STORY

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) answered him with a story. “There was a man walking the road from Village of Peace (Jerusalem) to Moon Village (Jericho). On the way, he was attacked by thieves, who beat him, stripped him of his clothes, and left him bleeding to death. “Now it happened that a holy man was on the same road, not far behind. When he saw the man, he went around him on the other side of the road. Not far behind him was another man, also from the tribe holy men are chosen from. When he saw the wounded man, he did the same thing as the holy man. “Then a man from High Place (Samaria), who was also walking the road, saw the wounded man. Even though he was not a Tribal Member but a mixed blood despised by the tribal people, he felt pity for the man. He helped him by pouring good medicine on his wounds and wrapping them in a cloth. He put the man on his own animal and took him to a lodging house to care for him. “The next day, when the man of High Place (Samaria) was leaving, he gave from his own money pouch to the keeper of the lodging house. ‘Use this to care for him,’ he said, ‘and

when I return, I will give you anything more that is needed.” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) then looked at the scroll keeper and said, “Which one of these three acted as a fellow human being to the man who was attacked by the thieves?” The scroll keeper answered, “The one who had pity on him.” “Go,” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said, “and walk in the same way.”

YOUNG WORSHIPPERS' MESSAGE SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lift Every Voice and Sing ELW 841 v 1, 2, 3

Please stand as you are able. We will say the Creed together.

CREED:

Let us profess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Architect and Guardian, who, in the beginning, breathed life into the void, sprouting all that is seen and unseen. We believe in Jesus Christ that in order to reconcile the cosmos, this God sent a piece of God's own self to be born human as kin to us all. And who, at the hands of political tyranny, was killed. He rose again to new life in love to return the world to God. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is one with the Creator and Savior. She is our guide and wisdom. She pours her spirit into apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, and listeners. We believe in the uniting of all Christians into the one body of Christ, And we believe in our return to God at the end. Amen.

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of inclusion, **Hear our prayer.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all

C: and also with you

We practice consent in our community to help create opportunities for respect and health. As we pass the peace ALL people have the right to choose if they would like a verbal greeting, handshake, or hug.

OFFERING SONG: Peace, My Friends *by Ray Repp*

PEACE, MY FRIENDS

Peace I leave with you, my friends:
Shalom my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends,
I give to you, so you can give to others, too.

To share God's love is why I came,
To show God's kindness to the world
Go now my friends and do the same,
Until I come again...

OFFERING PRAYER

For the gift of unconditional love, **we give thanks.**

For the way in which these offerings will
become gifts of love embodied,

we give thanks.

For the gift of this community bound and working together,
we give thanks.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the One
who cherishes and nourishes us.

**It is right to give our thanks
and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We will speak the Lord's Prayer together.

Our Creator in heaven,

Let your name be sanctified

Let your realm come

Let you will happen in heaven and also upon earth.

Give to us today our nourishment that is necessary for life

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Do not ever carry us into testing situations

But rescue us from the evil one.

For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God knows what you need. Come and receive it; be inspired to offer it to the world! Everyone is welcome at the table of God.

All are invited to share in communion. It is Christ's table, and all are welcome. An usher will escort each row forward. White grape juice can be located in the center of the tray. Please indicate to an usher if you would like to commune from your seat.

COMMUNION SONGS:

Come To the Table by Sidewalk Prophets

VERSE 1:

We all start on the outside
The outside looking in
This is where grace begins
We were hungry we were thirsty
With nothing left to give
Oh the shape that we were in
Just when all hope seemed lost
Love opened the door for us

CHORUS:

He said come to the table
Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior
Sit down and be set free
Come to the table

VERSE 2:

Come meet this mighty crew of misfits
These liars and these thieves
There's no one unwelcome here
So that sin and shame that you brought with you
You can leave it at the door
Let mercy draw you near

CHORUS

VERSE 3:

To the thief and to the doubter To the hero and the coward
To the prisoner and the soldier To the young and to the older



All who hunger all who thirst All the last and all the first
All the poppers and the princess All who fail you've been forgiven
All who dream and all who suffer All who loved and lost another
All the chained and all the free All who follow all who lead
Anyone who's been let down All the lost you have been found
All who have been labeled right or wrong To everyone who hears this
song

All Are Welcome ELW 641

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

May you deeply trust the nourishment provided to us by our Savior Jesus Christ, and may it urge you forward, with renewed strength and life, to be God's love in, to, and for the world. **Amen.**

Let us pray (*brief silence*),

God, we give thanks, for the opportunity to serve and be served by those you place in our paths, for our beloved siblings of all genders, sexual orientations, gifts, talents, abilities, marginalizations, and privilege.

Take our thanks and make it action. Take your rolling, love-soaked justice and drench us with the desire and capacity to bring it more fully into every single thing we do. Take our thanks and make it action.

Take your rolling, love-soaked justice and drench us with the desire and capacity to bring it more fully into every single thing we do. Because you give us the courage, you give us the freedom, you call us to walk in the ways of your Son, the Christ, the redeemer, in this world with your Spirit by our side. We honor this call and give thanks. **Amen.**

Standing is optional.

SENDING

Benediction

May the outrageous welcome of our Creator ✝ accept and love us for who we are; may the incarnation of the Word touch and hold us close; may the dancing flicker of the rainbow Spirit help us risk ourselves for love; and the blessing of God now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn/Song : Build Your Kingdom Here *by Rend Collective*

VERSE 1:

Come set Your rule and reign in our hearts again
Increase in us we pray, unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your church, we need Your power in us

VERSE 2:

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause
We are Your church, we pray revive this earth

CHORUS:

Build Your kingdom here, let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand, heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire, win this nation back
Change the atmosphere, build Your kingdom here
We Pray

VERSE 3:

Unleash Your kingdoms power
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop Your beauty, changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church, we are the hope on earth

DISMISSAL:

Go now in wholeness to love and work for the justice of God.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: Love the One You're With *by Stephen Stills*

The bulletins, altar flowers, and candles are dedicated in honor of the 64th wedding anniversary of Mary & Larry Lingle, in memory of John & Pauline Quaca and John & Helen Staub from Gerald Staub & Family and in memory of Deborah, John & Anna Fager by Karen & Tim Ainsley

We are mindful that as we gather here, we are on the historic lands of the Susquehannock peoples. May we honor the people of this land. May we remember that the oppression of Native peoples is not a relic of the past but continues today. Through God's Spirit, we repent and walk forward together, changing systems that discriminate as we live into authentic diversity and healing.

St. Peter's News

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

New to our prayer list this month: Nancy Swartz, George Hein, Art Wiand, Chancel Ilunga, Erma Grim, Cheryl Schlum, Anthony Mondeaux, Emily Eckert, Barbara Henry, Nevin Lingle, Steve & Olivia Waite, Emily Booth, Josie Brewster, Lucinda Sheaffer, Ben Chappell, and Mary Houser. **Those friends and members in need of continued prayers:** Kate Haggerty, Karen Ainsley, Ida Kramer, Stephanie Kastelik, Brenda Stum, Kiersten Kwiatkowski, Linda Holmes, Regina Heagy, Jim Hurst, Tina Polito, Doris Arnold, Thelma Thomas, and Richard Brandt.

****SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES****

Corbin Stettler, Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Cleckner, Edgar Lopez, John Pappas, Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

St. Peter's is looking for **one** more **volunteer** to participate in a stewardship program through the synod. The program is comprised of six virtual training sessions, all of which are offered twice. Please see Molly if you are interested in learning more or would like to register! The cost has been covered.

END OF SUMMER BASH

St. Peter's & TOGETHER are excited to be hosting a free community event to celebrate the end of summer and beginning of a new school year! We need volunteers to help play music & sing, prepare food, assist with games, and other needs. The bash is August 17th from 5pm-8pm. Help with set-up & tear-down would be greatly appreciated! Please see Alex if you are interested in helping out in any way.

FREE CONCERT- The Community Band will be performing in Luther Hall on Sunday, September 8th at 1:00pm. Stay after service for refreshments and fellowship before the performance.

SLEEP WELL UKRAINE FUNDRAISER

We will be holding an event to raise funds to support Sleep Well Ukraine on Thursday August 22, 2024. There will be a pancake supper, kids events including a jamboree and a pajama party with movie as well as a Sleep Well Ukraine concert. Come join us for the fun!

Sleep Well, Ukraine is a web-broadcast daily show from 8-9 pm in Ukraine (1-2 pm in US) and airs calming music that Ukrainian parents can play at bedtime to help their children sleep. It was founded in 2022 to address the needs of the children in Ukraine living in combat zones and assist with sleep in this time of trauma. All the proceeds of this event will be sent to Sleep Well, Ukraine to continue to the program from the healing of the children through music. For more information on Sleep Well, Ukraine, go to their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/527248645575550

LS SWO Women of the ELCA 32nd annual Camp Hebron

Retreat is coming up this fall from Oct. 25th through Oct. 27th. The retreat will use the letters from Paul to explore the early ideas of the Christian church and how women were instrumental in shaping our church. We would love to have you attend with us! Sign up forms are available in the lobby. Registration deadline is September 9th, 2024.