



# Church of the Messiah

The Episcopal Church in Gwynedd Pennsylvania

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The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector

## THE NINETEENTH WEEK AFTER PENTECOST Sunday, 11 October 2020

*During this ongoing COVID-19 national emergency, several restrictions have been instituted following guidelines issued by the CDC, civil authorities, and the Diocese of Pennsylvania. At some points in the service, the Celebrant will explain various procedures now in place; and instructions have been placed throughout this bulletin.*

*For the safety and health of our worshipping community, we ask for your understanding and cooperation. Thank you!*

*Masks MUST always be worn ; gloves are optional. If you did not bring a cloth mask or gloves from home, disposable masks and gloves are available as you enter the church.*

*Maintain recommended SOCIAL DISTANCE of at least six feet from all other worshippers at all times.*

*To assist in Contact Tracing, should that be required in the future, before taking your seat, please check in at the attendance table located in the Narthex. **If you later test positive for the virus, please notify the church office immediately in order for others to be notified. Thank you!***

*Alternating pews have been roped off to assist with social distance seating. Please sit only where indicated. Household groups may be seated together; all others must be seated individually.*

*Please place your offering in the Collection Plates located in the main aisle.*

*Sadly, there will be no congregational singing since it has been shown that this action expels droplets far beyond the social distance boundary of six feet. But music is included in the Sunday services and you may recognize some familiar hymns . . . feel free to hum along.*

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

ORGAN PRELUDE *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier - Kittel*

*The Congregation stands as the Celebrant enters the Chancel from the Sacristy.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (PROPER 23)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## A COLLECT FOR CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

**Gracious God: through your Fatherly goodness, make Church of the Messiah a Christian community united to serve others; enrich our life in Christ, that we might celebrate and share Christ's love with the world; and send your Holy Spirit to give us strength and courage to proclaim the Good News of your grace through word and deed. Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## THE LESSONS

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE

*Lector* A reading from **The Book of Exodus (32:1-14)**

*After the reading, the Lector says* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 106:1-6, 19-23

Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
for his mercy endures forever.

Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord \*  
or show forth all his praise?  
Happy are those who act with justice \*  
and always do what is right!  
Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people, \*  
and visit me with your saving help;  
That I may see the prosperity of your elect  
and be glad with the gladness of your people, \*  
that I may glory with your inheritance.  
We have sinned as our forebears did; \*  
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.  
Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb \*  
and worshiped a molten image;  
And so they exchanged their Glory \*  
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.  
They forgot God their Savior, \*  
who had done great things in Egypt,  
Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, \*  
and fearful things at the Red Sea.  
So he would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, \*  
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

#### **EPISTLE**

*Lector* A reading from **Paul's Letter to the Philippians (4:1-9)**

*After the reading, the Lector says* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Nothing between my soul and the Savior – Tindley/Hoy*

#### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Gospeler* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to **Matthew (22:1-14)**

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*After the Gospel, the Gospeler says* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The Congregation is seated.*

**THE SERMON** The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector

## THE NICENE CREED

*The Congregation stands.*

*All* 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.

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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The response to each petition:*

*Intercessor*     **In the name of Our Lord:**

*People*            **In Christ's name, hear our prayer.**

## PRAYER FOR NATIONAL HEALING AND RACIAL UNITY

O God, who created all peoples in your own image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and peoples who have come together in this great nation, and strengthened our culture with the many gifts, talents, perspectives and flavors they have each brought and shared. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, abolish all prejudices that separate us, open our eyes to recognize, acknowledge, and celebrate your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The congregation may continue to stand, or may kneel.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*All* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*All stand.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And always with you.**

*Avoiding direct contact and maintaining adequate social distance, all worshippers greet one another in the name of the Lord. Rather than a handshake, a hug or a kiss, please consider giving a friendly wave, a nod of the head, or some other acknowledgment of fellowship to those around you.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Jesus, Like a Shepherd Lead Us – Miller*

*While the Celebrant will prepare the altar as usual, there will not be a procession of the offering and elements from the back of the church.*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Eucharistic Prayer A**

*The people stand.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; for you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant & People* **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.**

*The people continue to stand, or may kneel at this point.*

*Celebrant* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant & People*    **Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Celebrant*    And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

*All*    **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.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD, INVITATION & SHARING OF COMMUNION**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant*    Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People*        **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Due to health concerns at the present time, only the Celebrant will consume both the bread and the wine; the Congregation will receive the Sacrament in one kind, only the bread.*

*Before distributing the bread to the Congregation, the Celebrant will use hand sanitizer, then put on gloves, as well as a mask.*

*Bread will be put into the hands of the Communicants without touching or contact.*

*If you do not want to receive Communion, but desire a no-touch blessing, please come forward, crossing your arms on your chest, to indicate that you do not wish to receive the bread.*

*Please remain seated until the Usher invites you to come forward.*

*Maintain social distance while waiting in line. Note the floor markers in the aisle; these are spaced six feet apart and have been put there to assist you in maintaining the social distance boundary.*

*Communicants are to approach the Celebrant individually, one at a time, to receive the bread or a blessing.*

*Please return to your seat by the side aisles.*

**COMMUNION MUSIC** *Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ – Bach*  
*Christ, whose glory fills the skies*

### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER OF ST. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI (1696-1787)**

*If you choose not to receive the Sacrament, you are invited to pray this prayer:*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant & People* **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING OF PRAYER SHAWLS, FINAL BLESSING & DISMISSAL

*The Celebrant blesses and dismisses the Congregation.*

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **POSTLUDE** *Rejoice, the Lord is King!*

*Please remain seated until invited to leave by the Usher.*

*Maintain social distancing as you exit. To assist with this, the Celebrant will not take a position at the door in order to eliminate a 'receiving line'. The Rector will, however, be available following the service should you need to speak with them.*

*If you do not wish to keep your Worship Bulletin, please deposit it in the recycling bin at the door.*

*For the time being, there is no Coffee Hour following the service.*

*Please do not remove your mask until you are in your car.*

***And please remember:*** *If you are diagnosed positive with the coronavirus, please notify the church office so we can activate the contact tracing process and notify others who have been with you here in worship. Thank you for your compliance!*

## **THIS WEEK'S ASSIGNED LESSONS:**

### **Exodus 32:1-14**

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."<sup>2</sup> Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."<sup>3</sup> So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup>He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"<sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD."<sup>6</sup> They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. <sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely;<sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"<sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you

swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" <sup>14</sup>And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

### **Philippians 4:1-9**

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. <sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

### **Matthew 22:1-14**

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup>"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen."

## **BIRTHDAYS IN THE WEEK AHEAD**

\* Phillip Myers \* Fran Beaumont \* Clayton Ruff \* Pat Oldt \* Trevor Marsh \* Wendy Hautzinger  
\* Denny Mellish \* Ed Zelner \* Brayden Boldt \* Marissa Beaver

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES**

### **CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS & YOUTH ACTIVITIES:**

10:30am today - "*Virtual*" Church School lesson and activities, see church website

Youth of Messiah meet next Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00pm

### **ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**

The response to the online worship services on the Messiah website offered over the past few months has been well-received, so these will continue. Several options will be available:

- The service will be live-streamed on YouTube at 9:30am.

- For those without computer access, an audio-only option is available by phone. At 9:30am, simply dial 609-663-5164 to listen to the service live.
- At the conclusion of worship, a link to the service will be posted on the church website: [messiahgwynedd.org](http://messiahgwynedd.org).
- In addition to the Messiah online worship postings, Bishop Gutierrez will continue to post weekly services on the diocesan website: [diopa.org](http://diopa.org).
- Weekly mailings of the liturgy, readings and sermon will continue to be sent to homebound parishioners without computer access. Should you wish to be added or removed from this list, please contact the church office: 215-699-9204.

**CHURCH & PARISH HALL CLEANING/SANITIZING:** After each worship service and every gathering in the Parish Hall, the spaces, including restrooms, will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized using a hospital-grade disinfectant solution.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**HELP NEEDED!!! – USHER CORPS:** We are in desperate need for volunteers to serve as Sunday morning ushers! Due to some retirements (after lengthy times of service), some unfortunate deaths, and some reluctance at this time to serve for in-person services, the corps has been severely depleted. This places a great strain on our ability to staff this important Sunday morning ministry. *BTW: This ministry is not a “males-only” opportunity!* If you are interested in serving or wish more information, please contact Ed Steinbauer ([ed@steinbauers.com](mailto:ed@steinbauers.com); 215-661-9956).

**FOOD COLLECTION FOR MANNA ON MAIN STREET:** As you do your grocery shopping each week, please remember to pick up some non-perishable food, toiletry items, and cleaning products. Bring them to church and leave them on the back pew. Each week, parish volunteers transport these items to the local food pantry, Manna on Main Street in Lansdale, for distribution to those in need within our community.

**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.

**YOGA CLASSES:** Classes, led by Diana Mulroy, are held outdoors when weather permits and in the Parish Hall when necessary. Each session costs \$10, and all proceeds benefit local social service agencies usually supported through Belfry Bargains funds. In the month of September, almost \$900 was raised and distributed to Laurel House, Interfaith Housing, Manna on Main Street, and Community Cupboard. Classes are appropriate for all levels - beginners, as well as more advanced participants. Use this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAEA922A4F58-join2>

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR PLEDGE UP TO DATE:** Thank you to all of you who have dropped off or sent in your pledge over the past several weeks! Your faithfulness has allowed us to stay current with payroll and bill payment. We know how difficult it can be to remember your pledge when not attending church services, but we need your ongoing support. Please remember to submit this month's pledge. Thank you!

And if the COVID-19 situation has resulted in unemployment or reduced income for your household and you feel the need to adjust your pledge, we understand; please let us know so we can both assist in some way as well as make adjustments to the church budget.

## **SERVING MESSIAH THIS MORNING**

**Chimer:** Martha Hewson  
**Lector:** Mercer Sisson  
**Ushers:** Bruce Givnish, Brenda Weir  
**Video:** Sam Frenkel, Marss Senteio

## **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH: October 12-18**

<b>Monday</b>	Church Office closed for Columbus Day holiday Yoga – 6:00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm Yoga – 9:30am AA, Alanon, Alateen – 7:30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm Yoga – 6:00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm
<b>Friday</b>	Church Office Closed Yoga – 9:30am
<b>Saturday</b>	Church Office Closed
<b>Next Sunday, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</b>	Holy Eucharist: 9:30am Church School (Virtual) 10:30am YOM 5:00pm