

PRAYER WORKS: A ministry of prayer and care

Prayer Works is a weekly publication highlighting prayer requests of the Philadelphia congregation. Updates may be made via the Prayer Board in the narthex or by e-mail at philadelphialuth@charter.net Prayers will remain on list four weeks unless updated. Please get permission before sharing someone else's prayer concern (4-4-2021)

HOMEBOUND / NURSING CARE

Susan Laney.....At son's home

ACUTE /CHRONIC ILLNESS

Mike F.....Cancer

Sam P.....Cancer Treatments

**FOR THE RECORD
APRIL 4, 2021**

Sunday School	NA
Worship	68
General Fund Offering	\$1928.00
Building Fund	\$30.00
Bound Conscience Fund	\$29.00
Other Contribution	516.00
Total Contributions	\$2503.00

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Organist Judy Parker

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SUNDAY SERVANTS APRIL 11TH

Lay Reader.....David Hartmann

Greeter.....Ron & Lisa Herman

UshersMike & Kathy Fox & Ron & Lisa Herman

Acolyte (All month).....Leah Isley

Crucifer (All month).....Susan Woodie

Tabulators.....Ron & Lisa Herman

Altar Guild..... Leah Isley & Miriam Smith

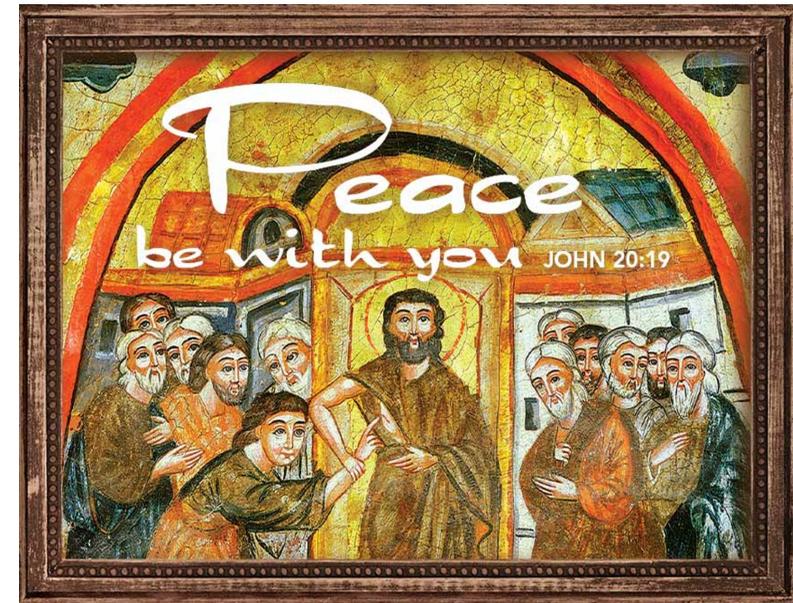
**PHILADELPHIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
“CHURCH OF BROTHERLY LOVE”
APRIL 11, 2021**

52 Pinewood Road
Granite Falls, NC 28630
The Reverend Diane W. Cline

Ken Eidenmiller, Music Director

Judy Parker, Organist

We welcome you to our service today! May God richly bless you as you worship here. If you are visiting for the first time this morning, we ask that you please sign the guest register found in the front entrance of the church.



The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

ENCOUNTER GOD

GATHERING: *The Holy Spirit gathers us in Christ's name!*

**(You are invited to stand, facing the procession of the cross.)*

***GATHERING SONG-"HERE I AM TO WORSHIP"**

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,

*Opened my eyes, let me see,
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
Hope of a life spent with you.*

Refrain:

*Here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted,

*Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
All for love's sake became poor. Refrain*

*I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross;
I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. Refrain*

Lay Reader: With one voice let us pray.....

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated.....)

**(Denotes when congregation stands.)*

(Bold italicized print denotes when congregation speaks.)

***DISMISSAL**

Lay Reader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Congregation: *Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

Lay Reader: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Congregation: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia!*

POSTLUDE



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren by Dot Fairchild

The sanctuary lamp is given to the glory of God and in memory of Brock & Iona Griffin & Frederick Dale Griffin by Janice Griffin



Pastor Cline will be on vacation through Monday, April 19th. You may contact Pastor Dan Duke @ (828) 638-6360 for pastoral needs. Pastor Frank Waught will be on vacation and is not available as stated previously.

SENDING: *(God blesses us and sends us with gifts of grace in mission to the world.)*

***BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, ✠Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN “HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD”**

*The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.*

Chorus

*How great is our God! Sing with me:
How great is our God! And all will see
How great, how great is our God.*

*Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. (Repeat Chorus)*

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

(We confess our sin and receive God’s mercy and forgiveness.)

(The congregation is asked to spend a few minutes in silent introspection, as we bring our hearts and minds to the altar.)

Lay Reader: We prepare our hearts for worship by offering silent prayer and the following public confession:

Congregation: We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world. We also confess that we have not fully followed His example. Therefore, we ask forgiveness. In His name and by His grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people. We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in God’s covenant of love which binds us to God and to one another. In communion with the Holy Spirit we are joined together in discipleship and in obedience to Christ.

Lay Reader: Our God is a mighty and merciful God and for our sake Jesus Christ was given to die for us. 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.

Congregation: Amen.

***GREETING**

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

(The congregation may be seated.)

Believe

WORD: *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

LAY READER: FIRST READING

ACTS 4: 32-35

(While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.)

A reading from the fourth chapter of Acts

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

LAY READER: PSALM 133

(SPOKEN IN UNISON)

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

¹*How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!*

²*It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.*

³*It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.*

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lay Reader: 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.

Amen.

OFFERING/NOISY OFFERING (You may remain seated.)

(Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.)

OFFERTORY

***GOSPEL**

JOHN 20: 19-31

(The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.)

***Lay Reader:** The gospel according to John 20: 19-31

***Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

***Lay Reader 1:** The gospel of the Lord.

***Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(The congregation may be seated.)

SERMON:

NC SYNOD SHARED WORSHIP

***HYMN OF THE DAY-"SHOUT TO THE LORD"**

*My Jesus, my Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love*

*My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You*

*Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name*

*I sing for joy at the work of Your hand
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You*

*Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name*

Lay Reader: And now as we respond to God's Word, we confess our faith through the words of the Apostle's Creed:

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

(Continued on next page.....)



I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.*

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again;

*He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

He will come again 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 of the People

Lay Reader: 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.

(A brief silence.....we kneel or pray.)

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.