

East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church
Reedsville, Pennsylvania



April 6, 2025

11:15 am

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Congregation reads text in BOLD

*If you are comfortable doing so, please stand.

GATHERING

WELCOME:

Welcome on this first Sunday of April as storms and sunshine vie for Spring. We take communion today immersed in Lent and the true meaning of the bread and cup we share together, the forever forgiveness and nourishment of faith through Jesus' journey to the cross.

ACTS of CONTEMPORARY APOSTLES:

Please see announcements at the back of the bulletin.

CENTERING THOUGHT:

"In today's scripture we see a Peter who is hungry to learn. He asks a question and might expect a straightforward answer: "How many times should I forgive?"

Yet, Jesus' math is not predictable – it's infinite. Forgiveness is abundant; grace is not earned."

Prayer: Teaching God, help us to *not* seek easy formulas that will add up to faith. Move us to let go of black-and-white thinking and embrace the infinite colors of grace. Amen.

PRELUDE

CALL to WORSHIP:

Teaching God,

We want to learn your ways.

We want to learn the ways of forgiveness.

We want to learn the ways of grace.

We want to learn your ways of love.

God we want to learn your ways

That is part of why we return to your text week after week,

because we are hungry to be more like you.

God, we want to learn your ways.

Meet us here.

Speak your truth.

Help us listen.

Let us worship God.

*HYMN: PH #233 *Blest Are the Uncorrupt in Heart* (Psalm 119 1-16)

*CALL to CONFESSION:

Friends, let's be like Peter. Let's return to Christ with the humility of a student as we pray together the prayer of confession. Let this be a moment of learning. Let us pray:

*PRAYER of CONFESSION:

Holy God, We long to be lifelong learners. Like a tenacious toddler, Peter was full of questions, because Peter was eager to learn. I wish I was more like that. I still have so much to learn.

We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, "How many times should we forgive?"—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.

With hope and humility we pray, amen.

*WORDS of FORGIVENESS:

Family of faith, When Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive?" Jesus responded with abundance. That abundance exists for you as well. No matter what you have done or left undone, no matter what lessons you have learned or are still learning, God's abundant grace exists for you. God's love will never run out. So hear and rest in this good news: You are forgiven. You are loved. You are invited to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*PEACE of CHRIST:

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to those here and beyond the walls of our Sanctuary. The Peace of Christ be with You!!

And, also with You.

*GLORIA PATRI: (PH #579)

***Glory to be the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.***

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION:

Quieting God, As we prepare to listen to your good Word, calm the noise in our minds. Center our spirits to focus on you so that we might learn and hear what we have missed in this story before. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: First Reading: Psalm 119:9-16
Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-22

MESSAGE: *Stages of Faith* *Rev. Ela J. Robertson*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

STATEMENT OF BELIEF:

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

“How many times should I forgive?”

“Jesus, where are you going?”

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

“Where does it hurt?”

“What do you need?”

“How can I help?”

We believe that God is a teacher.

“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

“Here I am.”

“Send me.”

**We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,
with all our heart,
with all our mind,
with all our strength.**

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

*AFFIRMATION of FAITH:

Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

MINUTE for MISSION

JOYS and CONCERNS

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE:

God of all creation, the psalmist reminds us of the power of your words to keep us on the right path, as youngsters, as we grow and always. We have meditated on your words this Lent and rejoice in the path you lay out for us. Help us to bring others along with us and pray for those who are struggling...

God of love, restore us we pray. Only you know exactly what is needed to heal what is broken, to renew what has been worn down. Continue to guide us and help us to see where we might be a part of your renovations in this world. So that all of your children who sow with tears today, might reap with songs of joy tomorrow. We pray all of these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together saying: “Our Father ...”.

LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN: PH #521 *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* (refrains and verses 3-5)

CALL for OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY: (PH #592)

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

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER SONG: All I Am I Bring to You

***All I am, Oh all I am, all I am I bring to you, I bring to you.
All my heart, Oh All my heart, All my heart,
I bring to you, I bring to you.
All my tears, Oh All my tears, All my tears,
I bring to you, I bring to you.***

INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you.

And, also with you.

Lift up your heart.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise. O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe, you call us even now to acts of courage and witness and peace. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

WORDS of INSTITUTION

(The bread is distributed, held and prayed upon in silence, then taken by all, together.)

(The cup is distributed, held and prayed upon in silence then taken by all, together.)

PRAYER after COMMUNION

SENDING

*HYMN: PH #358 *Help Us Accept Each Other* (Matthew 18)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*AMEN PH #586

*POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING:

April 9	Session Meeting , in the manse, 6:30 p.m.
April 13	Lily Orders due , to Wendy Hardison
April 13	Palm Sunday : special music, palms procession
April 17	Maundy Thursday Service at East Kish, 7 p.m.
April 18	Good Friday Service at West Kish, 7 p.m.
April 20	Easter
July 27	Greenwood joint church Picnic and Worship , 11 a.m.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On Easter a 'flowering cross,' a celebration of new life in the resurrection will be outside for all to 'add a flower before service – take a flower after service.' If you have anything budding or in bloom at home please bring it to help make our cross abundant.

April Blessing-Box needs: canned goods (no vegetables), pancake mix, saltines and peanut butter. Thanks!

Credits

Scripture: The Inclusive Bible (p. 2688). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition

Liturgy: Parts of the Liturgy adapted from “Wandering Heart” by Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |sanctifiedart.org”) Parts of the liturgy adapted from Presbyterian Outlook

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East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church

Reedsville, Pennsylvania

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Worship Leader: Rev. Ela J. Robertson

Musician: Jene Mertz

Ushers: Vicki and Tim Bigelow