

*East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church  
Reedsville, Pennsylvania*



April 28, 2024  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Congregation reads text in BOLD

\*If you are comfortable doing so, please stand.

### GATHERING

#### WELCOME

#### ACTS of CONTEMPORARY APOSTLES

#### CENTERING THOUGHT:

Unifying God, your love leads us to be more forgiving and calls us to add to love the discipline to be a reconciling force in the world. When enemies taunt us, assure us of your presence as we seek patience and inner strength. Amid tensions caused by misunderstanding, suspicion, or lack of trust, send your Spirit of insight and hope. Help us make the first move toward those we have offended, forsaking our pride in seeking peace.

#### PRELUDE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP:

We gather this day in joy and Christian fellowship,

**for we are the church of Jesus Christ!**

We pray for the Holy Spirit to be among us,

**opening our hearts and minds to the worship of God!**

\*HYMN: STF #2128 *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION:

When we come before God, we remember and proclaim who God is: merciful, just, holy, and loving. We must also remember who we are, and we are a people who have not always been the people God has called us to be. We have not always been merciful, just, holy or loving. So let us confess our sin, trusting in God's goodness to forgive us and create us anew for our lives ahead.

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you. We pursue success, realizing it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, knowing they are empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone. Amen.**

#### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (from 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Hear the good news! In Christ, we are new creations. The old life is gone, thank God! A new life has begun. Know you are forgiven, and be at peace.

**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:

***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

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-40  
1 John 4:7-21

MESSAGE: *Lilacs, Love and Leaps of Faith* Rev. Ela J. Robertson

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*HYMN: PH #171 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (verses 1, 2, & 6)

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (adapted from *Belonging to God:  
A First Catechism*)

**We are the church: the people who believe the good news about Jesus, who are baptized, and who share in the Lord's Supper. Through these means of grace, the Spirit renews us so that we may serve God in love. We believe the good news that gives us comfort that we belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our sake, so that nothing will ever separate us from God's love. We know this good news through reading the Bible and hearing it taught and preached. The Holy Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and helps us rely on its promises today.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS  
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.**

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY:

*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

SENDING

\*HYMN: STF #2223 *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*AMEN

\*POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING:

May 1           **Session Meeting**, in manse, at 6:30 pm  
May 2           **Tea Party**, Valley View Terrace Activities Room, 1:30 pm  
May 5           **Communion, Ascension, Cinco de Mayo**  
May 17          **Third-Friday Event**, Reedsville Square  
May 19          **Pentecost**  
June 8          **East-Kish Open House**, Reedsville Community Days

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On Thursday, May 2, at 1:30, there will be a Valley View Tea Party for Terrace, Haven and Village residents connected to Milroy, Reedsville, Belleville, Lewistown and other local Presbyterian churches. Members of the congregation who would like to attend to provide fellowship are welcome. Please let Pastor Ela know if you can be there.

Pastor Robertson will be at a conference and away May 8 - 14.

Ken McNitt has kindly volunteered to set up a stand at the May 17 Third-Friday event in Reedsville. He will be our liaison with the Reedsville Community Association. This is a great opportunity to increase our visibility in the community. At the May 17 Third-Friday event, we plan to promote the summer day camps and have a fishing game for children. Please volunteer to help.

Session has decided that the church will be hosting some sort of open house during the Saturday morning of Reedsville Days. Laura will head this committee and effort. Please volunteer to plan and to help.

Updates and/or additions to the Prayer List in next week's bulletin list can be made by calling the church telephone (717 667-6366) and leaving a message on the answering machine.

Credits: Liturgy written by Tara Bulger (*Presbyterian Outlook*, April 28, 2024) Centering Thought/Silent Prayer: from Year B Fourth Sunday of Easter - *When we Gather, Revised Edition: A Book of Prayers for Worship*. James G. Kirk

Cover Art: Leaf from *Ethiopian Gospels: Portrait of the Evangelist John*, (1st half 16th century) ink and paint on heavy, thick parchment, The Walter's Art Museum, Baltimore.

---

## East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church

Reedsville, Pennsylvania  
[eastkishpres@gmail.com](mailto:eastkishpres@gmail.com)

Worship Leader: Rev. Ela J. Robertson  
Musician: Jene Mertz  
Lector: Donna Green  
Ushers: Ron Witherite and Gail Wagner