



EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.

*All who are able may stand. The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

Chimes Concert at 10:00 a.m. from Trinity Chapel's steeple

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

We long for community
and the Presence of God.

In whom we live and move and have our being.

This day Christ tells us that we will never be alone.

An Advocate will share our journey.

With whom we will live and create community and celebrate being.

May the ever present love of God be with you.

And may the joy of Christ surround you.

May we know the presence of the Advocate

as we gather in this community of peace,

continuing to share the cost of discipleship

with deeds of bold mercy and courageous justice.

As an Easter People following a Risen Lord,

may the life of Jesus live on in us and through us. Amen.

*Opening Prayer

Still-speaking God,

we gather for many reasons,

each with our own story.

May these reasons and stories be immersed in your Sacred Story,

finding ourselves caught up in the drama and beauty

of Jesus' teachings, life, and ministry.

Through your Holy Spirit enable us to move boldly into the future

and to fulfill the hope of love that Jesus taught.

*Opening Hymn *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

#63

1 Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine.
 2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine.
 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, power di - vine, fill and nerve this will of mine.
 4 Ho - ly Spir - it, law di - vine, reign with - in this soul of mine.

Voice of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it from its night.
 Kin - dle ev - ery high de - sire, pu - ri - fy me with your fire.
 Bold - ly may I al - ways live, brave - ly serve, and glad - ly give.
 Be my law, and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy Advocate,

it seems, at times, we forget that you know us at our very depth.

**We become anxious and afraid that you are not with us,
 and that our lives have lacked meaning and purpose.**

You have called us to great things,

but we focus instead on what we lack, rather than on Whose we are.

By your mercy, help us to live out the commandments of Christ

beyond these walls, beyond this hour,

and in so doing, may we become for the world

the very presence of justice, hope and peace.

***Assurance of Pardon**

All of us have been created and called to be in community.

Know this, but more importantly, live this:

As God's children we are loved and equipped for great ministry.

Follow Jesus' commandment to love boldly

as you are held in the grace and love of God.

Thought For the Day

The 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, for ever. Amen.

The Scriptures

Acts 17:22-31

John 14: 15-21

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Anthem *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

*- K. Lee Scott
ERUCC Singers*

***Closing Hymn** *God of Our Life*

*# 366
See last page*

*Benediction

Let love be true and freely given.

May you be encouraged and blessed by the Advocate
whose love warms and surrounds you like the sun,

believing that God is with us always,

as close as our beating hearts.

Amen.

*Postlude





Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzioh0xyyacgg5fmjnoi>

Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w

You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

Prayer List - Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: The family of Dottie Harrison, Jaci Clayton, Raleigh Jenkins(brother of Donna Logee), Gail Ellam, Al Peden, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Tina Baker, Douglas Pyles (brother of Barbara Rhoads), Alyce Schmid (sister of Dennie Schmid), Dawn Williams (mother of Starr Schaeberle), Lois Wilson (Dan Smith’s Aunt), Jerry Cassell (brother of Ave Barr), Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Roger Williams (father of Starr Schaeberle), Mary Remsberg, Faith Kline (friend of the Schaeberle family), Susan Matesa (friend of Dan Smith & Austin Byrd), Larry Maples, Dustin Chapman (friend of Catie, Alex & Sean), Jane Doll, Susan McCauley (niece of Jack Stush), Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Terry Smiley (uncle of Scott Smiley), Shawn Smiley (cousin of Scott Smiley), Joe Jahoda (Kim Jahoda’s dad), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Frank Tymczyszyn(brother in law of Nancy Jones), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser).

Al Peden
7509 Oakmont Drive
Frederick, MD 21702

Alyce Schmid
104 Charleston Lane
Frederick MD 21702

Jaci Clayton
3046 Palatine Drive
Frederick, MD 21701

We ask you to remember all of those currently serving in the Armed Forces. Your prayers and cards are welcomed and appreciated by those on our prayer list.

Worship Next Week: Sunday, May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter

[Ctrl + Click HERE to join worship next Sunday](#) at 10:30 a.m.

Jesus makes clear in Acts 1: 6-14, that the role of a disciple is to be Jesus’ witnesses throughout the world, under the power of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel lesson, John 17: 1-11, is part of Jesus’ final prayer with the disciples, preparing them for their lives as witnesses to the saving love of God.

Updated Directory Available: Now it is even more important to connect with members via phone call or email message. If you want an updated directory, please contact the church office: aaguilar@erucc.org or 301-662-2762. One will be emailed to you (or snail mail).

If you or someone in your family is in need of a call, a pick me up, anything, please contact the church office at 301-662-2762 or via email at bkdaniel@erucc.org

Join Tuesday Bible Study via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/608416206>

Each Monday, we will send out a Bible study sheet. The passage will be one of the lessons from the previous Sunday's scripture readings. You are invited to use the material for your own personal reflection and, if you wish, join a Zoom Call on Tuesdays at 11:00 am to discuss the passage with others.

If you wish to be added to this Bible Study mailing, please let Amy know: aaguilar@erucc.org

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Daniel for a check-in **each weekday at noon:**
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/683955819> If you need to know how to set up Zoom, contact the office and we will attempt to walk you through the process.

Youth are invited to join Pastor Daniel for a Zoom Call **every Wednesday** at 4:00 pm:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/405187542>

ERUCC VIRTUAL BOOK GROUP: May 26 at 7 p.m. : *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

Homegoing is a novel "following the parallel paths of two half sisters born into two different villages in 18th century Ghana and the paths of their descendants through 8 generations: from the Gold Coast, to Mississippi plantations, through the Civil War, to Jazz Age Harlem." "It illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed--and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation."

June 23 Soul of a Thief by Steven Hartov

July 28 Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

Consider continuing your support of ERUCC on-line. You can set up automatic giving via your bank, or use this handy link from our website: <https://erucc.org/give-your-money/>. Make sure if you are paying thru Paypal or online that you designate which account your giving is to applied to (i.e. weekly giving, building fund, other)

Stay Connected and Get Informed!

There are many ways to receive information about what is happening at church each week. The weekly bulletin, the weekly informational email, and our monthly newsletter, The Trinity Chimes, Facebook, and Instagram. (@eruccfred

Thursday Thoughts-A weekly emailed message that shares updates, highlights the upcoming service's scripture and focus, and includes announcements about Sunday School. To sign up to receive Thursday Thoughts, contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or aaguilar@erucc.org and share your preferred email address.

Trinity Chimes—ERUCC's monthly newsletter. A more in-depth look on what's happening with the congregation. How we're reaching out, learning and volunteer opportunities, member and social program updates. Receive Trinity Chimes by email! Contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or aaguilar@erucc.org to request to be added. (Paper copies also available upon request.)



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

We would like to honor our graduates in June. If you or a member of your family is graduating, please send their name to the church office: aaguilar@erucc.org

God of Our Life

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1 God of our life, through all the cir-cing years, we trust in you.
2 God of the past, our times are in your hand; with us a - bide.
3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known we fol - low you;

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, your care shines through.
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; be now our guide.
When we are strong, O leave us not a - lone, our ref - uge true.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
Bless us in times of dark - ness and of light,
Be now for us in life our dai - ly bread,

We own your mer - cies, God, which nev - er fail.
Then faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor (bkdaniel@erucc.org)

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry (ksexton@erucc.org)

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

Amy Aguilar, Office Administrator (erucc@erucc.org) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • (ph) 301-662-2762 • www.erucc.org



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020

John 14:15-21

Witness of Love

Rural Life Sunday | Mental Health Sunday

WHEREAS, most people believe that mental illnesses are rare and “happen to someone else,” when in fact, mental illnesses are common and widespread with an estimated 61.5 million Americans (1 in 4) experiencing some form of mental illness in a given year;

WHEREAS, there continues to be strong stigma and discrimination in society against people with these brain disorders in housing, employment, social relationships, (including how they are treated in our churches);

WHEREAS, many uninformed people believe people with mental illnesses are likely to be violent, while in reality, people with mental illnesses are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators;

WHEREAS, the public mental health system, which previously served as a safety net for people with the most severe mental illnesses, has suffered from dramatic funding cuts in the last decade, and our prisons and county jails now house more people with mental illnesses than psychiatric hospitals do;

WHEREAS, faith and spirituality can be an important component of recovery from mental illnesses and addictions;

WHEREAS, a mental illness or brain disorder in the family affects not only the ill family member, it profoundly affects other family members and loved ones and the entire family structure;

WHEREAS, people having a diagnosable brain disorder and/or substance abuse disorder are potentially at a higher risk for suicide;

WHEREAS, the church is called to be a community that breaks through fear and isolation to offer love, hope, care and healing;

WHEREAS, Jesus showed us the way to reach out to those who are ill or marginalized to offer companionship, compassion and support;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod encourages United Church of Christ congregations to adopt covenants to be WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) Congregations for Mental Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod encourages congregations to work to eradicate stigma around mental illnesses/brain disorders, and to offer support to persons with and those impacted by mental health challenges, including their family members, loved ones and others concerned.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod encourages advocacy by all settings of the church for broader and more just access to quality mental health services including private and public insurance coverage. This advocacy includes services for all persons with mental illness who are falling through the fraying safety net, especially persons in jails/prisons, and persons who are homeless.

This “Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged” (WISE) resolution was adopted in 2015 at the 30th Annual UCC General Synod. Is your church community a WISE congregation? Learn more at: <http://moredomainsforless.com/mhnucc/becomingaWISEcongregationformentalhealth2019ed.pdf>



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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