



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.



**F**or Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.

**W**e have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

**W**e ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

**T**here is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org).

*Donate online by scanning this code:*

*Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.*



Thank you.



**Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church**

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Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

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# EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

May 16, 2021

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.

### Greetings and Announcements

#### Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

This is the day that God has made.

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Let us worship the One who turns our sorrow into joy.

**Our despair into hope.**

Our doubt into faith.

**Let us feel the wind of the Spirit refresh our lives.**

Come, let us worship.

#### \*Opening Prayer

**God, our source of light and life,**

**you lead the way to courage, kindness, generosity, and love.**

**You call us to be your people and to live in community with one another,**

**always moving to a place of wholeness.**

**God, your love makes us whole.**

**Help us to receive your love with open hearts,**

**so that we may become attuned to your will and way.**

**We ask that you strengthen us as your people, gathered to praise and to serve you. Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn *I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty*

# 50

*See back of bulletin*

#### \*Call to Confession

#### \*Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we confess that we have done things we should not have done  
**and we have left undone things we should have done.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Loving God, we confess that we have not trusted you with our whole hearts,**

and we have not always been faithful witnesses.

**We confess that we are sometimes wrapped up in our individual lives,**

with little time for Christian community.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Forgive us and strengthen us in your Spirit. Amen.

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the words of 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**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 Scripture**

John 17:6-9

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

**Sharing our Stories**

-- *Lucy Adkins & Alex Cumber*

**Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service**

**Anthem *I Could Sing of Your Love Forever***

- *M. Smith, arr. S. DeCesare*  
*ERUCC Singers*

**\*Closing Hymn *Hope of the World***

# 46, tune- *WELWYN*

**Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,  
Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict torn.  
Save us your people from consuming passion,  
From false pursuits through which our lives are worn.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift of our redemption,  
Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life.  
Still let your Spirit unto us be given  
to heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, who by the cross did save us  
From death and sad despair, from sin and guilt,  
We render back the love your mercy gave us;  
Take back our lives and use them as you will.**

**Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,  
Who by this sign did conquer grief and pain,  
We would be faithful to your gospel glorious;  
Our Sovereign who forever more shall reign!**

**\* Benediction**

**\* Postlude**



**Every Sunday at 10:30**

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bziah0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

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

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9\\_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w)**

You can get to the link on our homepage at [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)

**Worship Notes:** Today's liturgy is from Seasons of Spirit, May 16, 2021

**The flowers on the altar this morning** are placed by Jack Stush and Audrey Rayfield in memory of loved ones.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Jack Day and Peter Brehm.

**Worship Next Week: May 23 Alive in Love**

***Acts 2:1-21 "I will pour out my Spirit..."***

Pentecost, as described in the classic text in Acts 2:1-21, is a high holy day of the life of the church. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the founding of the Christian church. More than that, on Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into the life of the church and into our own lives. The power of the Holy Spirit is reinforced in the gospel for this day, John 15:26-27 and 16:4b-15, when Jesus explains what the Holy Spirit will do for the faithful. This raises the question of what "spirit" means to us in the 21st Century. What does "spirit" look like in these modern times?

**LIVING JOYFULLY: Reflect, Then Step Out  
BECOMING A GOOD STEWARD OF YOUR TIME  
Zoom discussions – Sunday June 6 and June 13 at 7 p.m.**

What is your most valuable asset? Most people would say their bank fund or their property. But truly, it is your time.

What are you engaged in when you lose track of time? What activities make you feel alive? What opportunities are you drawn to? With everything you know about yourself – your gifts, skills motivations, interests – how would you like to spend your time? God is nudging you. God wants you to live fully as your unique self.

Invest an hour of your time, guided by members of the Stewardship/Generosity Team, exploring and examining how God is encouraging you to step out in faith, living joyfully. There are two opportunities to join on Zoom: Sunday, June 6 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88423175369?pwd=ZkpnOTZucTFaMzhJMFB2akZEQ0hBdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 2317 5369

Passcode: 473395

For more information, please contact Jeanellen Kallevang@ [geeggirl@hotmail.com](mailto:geeggirl@hotmail.com)

**TODAY! May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**SPIRITUAL WALK from 2-3:30 p.m. at Thorpewood  
12805 Mink Farm Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788**

Our May Spiritual Walk will take us to the Catoctin Mountains. We will explore some of the trails around Thorpewood which is a mountain retreat center. The owners have graciously agreed to a visit from ERUCC. Come enjoy the peaceful beauty of the woods and the joy of in-person fellowship. Maybe we will even see some beaver activity!

Part of the adventure is getting there! There are several different routes but the one below is from Thorpewood's website. Allow 30-40 minutes from Frederick.

**Directions:** Take Route 15 North towards Gettysburg and Thurmont. Thurmont is about 15 miles northwest of Frederick. There are three Thurmont exits; take the second exit, for Route 77. The exit ramp is a very sharp curve and the deceleration lane is short, so take care here. At the stop sign turn RIGHT onto Route 77 West, towards Hagerstown and Smithsburg.

Stay on this windy, climbing road for approximately 2.9 miles, and just after Park Central Road on the right, turn LEFT onto Catoctin Hollow Road. At this point, you are entering Cunningham Falls State Park (William Houck Picnic Area) and you will see the lake on your right, through the trees.

Continue on Catoctin Hollow Road approximately 2.8 miles, pass Wigville Road, and turn RIGHT onto Mink Farm Road.

Continue on Mink Farm Road for 1.1 miles. While on Mink Farm Road, you will cross a small stream and then go up a steep hill, road will level out for a short distance, then there will be a slight uphill section and then the road will begin to descend. At the bottom of this short descent, the road crosses a stream and goes from paved to gravel. After traveling 200 feet on the gravel, you will see a lane on the left, marked by a carved wooden "ThorpeWood" sign. Turn LEFT into this lane and in 150 feet when the driveway divides, stay to the RIGHT to get the Lodge.

## I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1757

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 I sing the praise of Love al - might - y, which shines re - vealed in  
 2 How lov - ing - kind you are, how gen - tle, how your heart reach - es  
 3 Se - cure my heart and all my be - ing, in you, my Sav - ior,  
 4 May my heart bear the deep im - pres - sion of love that Je - sus

Je - sus' face. I of - fer up all that de - lights me,  
 af - ter mine! My heart re - sponds in el - e - men - tal  
 cru - ci - fied. You gave your life to work my heal - ing,  
 shares with me, My life be - come a pure ex - pres - sion

all mean de - sires, each fond em - brace, Turn from my - self, in  
 sym - pa - thy, beat - ing per - fect time. This mu - tual love, this  
 bleed - ing for me, you groaned and died. Be - lov - ed Je - sus,  
 of all that Chris - tian love can be: Each word, each act, a

pure de - vo - tion, and ea - ger plunge in love's vast o - cean.  
 strong at - trac - tion, I know no oth - er sat - is - fac - tion.  
 my sal - va - tion, you have, through love, re - stored cre - a - tion.  
 bright re - flec - tion of joy in Love's own res - ur - rec - tion.

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16, 2021

John 17:6-19

### Guided in Prayer *Mental Health Sunday*

*Myra lives with her husband Howard in the home they have shared for 43 years. A year ago, Howard started forgetting words and losing things more than usual. Now, he has been diagnosed with dementia and he gets more confused every day.*

*Pastor Deb is the only other person in the congregation who knows that Joel's brother Carl died by suicide. Even though it's been more than a decade since his death, every year on the anniversary of Carl's death, Joel becomes depressed and angry.*

*After his tour in Afghanistan, Raoul began having nightmares that would wake him from sleep. He sometimes breaks into a sweat and starts shaking in crowded places.*

*Several years ago, Angela had surgery on her back and was prescribed pain medicine. She became addicted to their numbing effects and has struggled to keep a job.*

*When the church secretary arrives at the building in the morning, she sometimes finds Doreen sleeping in the outside stairwell. Doreen talks to people that no one else can see and, even when information is offered to her, refuses to go to the shelter.*

These people and scenarios are imagined, but the reality of dementia, addiction, PTSD and mental illness almost certainly touch the lives of people in your congregation. Although the church community wants to help in situations like this, it's hard to know what to do.

Fortunately, the mental health network of the United Church of Christ has created toolkits for congregations who yearn to be places of safety and caring in these and countless other situations. You can find the toolkits, and much more at <https://www.mhn-ucc.org/congregational-toolkits/>.



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

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