



Seventh Sunday of Easter May 21, 2023 at 11:00 am

Welcome to Oakmont Presbyterian Church!

*We are pleased to have you join us for worship today.
So that you may feel at home with us, please note the following:*

Visitor Parking spaces may be found in the Dogwood Way parking lot and across the street in the Oak Ridge Condo upper and lower parking lots.

The Nursery is available for use as a cry room. Ask Ushers for directions.

Large Print Bulletins and **Children’s Worship bags** are available from the ushers.

To preserve the atmosphere of worship, **please turn off** all electronic devices.

An **asterisk (*)** in the worship liturgy indicates that all may stand in body or spirit.

Service Dogs are used by several of our members. Please do not pet them when harnessed.

Hearing Assistance - Our sanctuary has two options for those needing hearing assistance: **receivers with headphones** which are available from the AV Team at the soundboard and **Bluetooth/WiFi Assisted Listening System** for use with smartphones (headphones or earbuds required) or Bluetooth hearing aids. *To utilize the Bluetooth/WiFi system:* 1) join the sanctuary WiFi network – OPCAV; 2) enter the password Oak\$\$1522 3) on your smart phone download WaveCAST APP from the Google Play or Apple Store; 4) Open WaveCAST app and click on “Service Broadcast.” (If “Service Broadcast” is not listed, fully close the app and try again. Audio will start playing automatically upon selection.

Reflection in Preparation for Worship

When the twentieth-century Russian spiritual leader Father Arseny was asked, in the depths of a Soviet prison camp, who was responsible for the catastrophe of communism, he didn’t blame the camp guards, the politburo, or Stalin. “Among us Russian people,” he said, “many have lost the faith, lost respect for our past. We lost much of what was precious and good. Who is at fault? The authorities? No, we are at fault ourselves; we are only reaping what we ourselves have sown.”

-Paul Kingsworth, “A Wild Christianity”

Welcome

Steve Wilson

Please sign, pass and return Friendship Record pads during this time of announcements.

Trinity Chimes

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Prelude

Jane Miller, Guest Organist

Prelude on "Duke Street"

Robert Lau

Call to Worship

Steve Wilson

Leader: Praise the Lord, all the earth!

People: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise the Lord in the heights.

Leader: Praise the name of the Lord, and the Lord’s glory shall be praised.

People: for people near and far, for people present and people to come, for the young and for those wise with age.

Leader: Come, let us praise the Lord; let us worship God.

**Holy God, we praise Your name; Lord of all, we bow before You;
All on earth your scepter claim. All in heaven above adore You,
Infinite Your vast domain, Everlasting is Your reign.**

**Hark, the glad celestial hymn Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim. Unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord: Holy, holy holy, Lord.**

**All apostles join the strain As Your sacred name they hallow,
Prophets swell the glad refrain, And the blessed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun, Through the church the song goes on.**

**Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit: Three we name You,
While in essence only One; Undivided God we claim You,
And adoring bend the knee While we own the mystery.**

*Prayer of the Day (please remain standing)

Ronnie Bailey

Prayer of Confession

Ronnie Bailey

**Holy God, You have shown Yourself to us in Jesus, Your Son, compassionate and kind,
faithful and loving, gracious and hospitable. We stumble and fall as we seek to follow Him,
struggling to make His ways our ways.**

...time for silent confession

***Holy God, our sins are real, and they are many. Forgive our failings and free our hearts to
start again as the people You called us to be.***

Assurance of Pardon

*Leader: Neither sin nor doubt nor death, nor anything else in all creation can separate us from
the love of God in Jesus Christ. This is good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen!

*Act of Praise

Congregation Singing

Gloria Patri/Glory Be to the Father

Hymnal, No. 579

**Glory be to 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.**

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Sue Sanford

Psalter Reading

Psalm 22: 1:1-8

Pew Bible, OT, page 500

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Time with the Children

Ronnie Bailey

Children go to JAM after time with children.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-18

Pew Bible, NT, page 18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Us?

Steve Crocco

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Response

Why Hast God Forsaken Me

Hymnal, No. 406

**Why has God forsaken me? Cried our Savior from the cross
As he shared the loneliness of our deepest grief and loss.**

**At the tomb of Lazarus Jesus wept with open grief:
Grant us, Lord, the tears which heal all our pain and unbelief.**

**As His life expired, our Lord placed Himself within God's care:
At our dying, Lord, may we trust the love which conquers fear.**

**Mystery shrouds our life and death, but we need not be afraid,
For the mystery's heart is love, God's great love which Christ displayed.**

Faith Community Concerns, the Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Steve Wilson

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

Call to Offering

Steve Crocco

Offertory

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

Robert J. Hughes

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and grief to bear,
What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Doxology *Hymnal*, No. 592

using tune: *OLD HUNDREDTH*

**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

Steve Crocco

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Hymn of Dedication

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Hymnal, No. 151

**Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns All music but its own!
Awake, my soul and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy match-less King Through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love; Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds yet visible above, In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight
But downward bends his burning eye At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace; Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end; And round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend Their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years, The Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, Ineffably sublime
All hail, Redeemer hail! For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never fail Through-out eternity.**

*Charge and Blessing

Steve Crocco

Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

arr. Joseph Prentiss

WORSHIP NOTES

We welcome today guest organist and OPC member, Jane Miller.

Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed! During the days of Easter (Easter-tide), we remember Christ's rising from the tomb, His post-resurrection appearances, His ascension, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This is the most festive period of the church year filled with great joy and renewal. White is the official liturgical color for the season, but accents of gold may also be used to celebrate this joyous and festive time during the Easter season.

The Paschal Candle – represents the risen Christ, who passed from darkness to light, to become *the light* shining in the darkness (John 1:5), and it is the corollary of the pillar of fire in the Hebrew exodus. Traditionally, it is the largest candle used in the church and it stands at a central place. The Paschal Candle is lit throughout the Great Fifty Days (from Easter to Pentecost) and at Baptisms, Funerals or Memorial Services.

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Hymns taken from:

- *The Presbyterian Hymnal – Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.
- *Worship & Rejoice* © 2001 Hope Publishing Company

Worship next Sunday, May 28 – 8:30 and 10:00 am in the Sanctuary, worship will be at 10am starting May 28 through September 3. We will celebrate Pentecost. Steve Wilson will be preaching the sermon *The Power of Pentecost* based on Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Acts 2:1-21. **Wear Red on Pentecost!** As a part of our worship experience, we are inviting worshippers to *wear red*, reminding us of the tongues of fire on Pentecost.

Early Worship at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary – a more intimate service, approximately 45 minutes, with a simple worship order including the sermon and two congregational hymns with piano accompaniment.

Service for The Lord's Day - at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. This traditional worship service includes a fuller liturgy, with sermon and congregational hymns. A variety of musical styles are offered by our various choirs accompanied by the pipe organ, piano and other musical instruments. **Next Sunday:** Sharing in the Ministry of Music will be the Chancel Choir and Pentecost Orchestra.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graduates? – If you know of OPC graduates from High School or College, please call the church office (412.828.5770). Thank you.

Per Capita - Someone recently sent to the church their 2023 per capita contribution. Thank you to all who have or will make that contribution. Each year our church is assigned an amount to pay per member that covers the administrative costs and programs of our Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly. In 2023 that amount is \$35.70 *per active member*. Each year we receive contributions toward their per capita from about one-half of our members and make up the other one-half from general contributions. So far this year we have received \$5,235 from 140 of our 400 members. If you have not paid your per capita amount, it would help if you could. If you have any questions, please contact our Financial Secretary for Contributions, Marge Kuhn, at the church office (412.828.5770). Thank you.

Presbyterian Women's Annual Summer Luncheon on Wednesday, June 7 at 12:30 pm in the Dining Room. Church staff is invited to attend.

Jubilant Praise Concert Sunday, May 28 at 4:00 pm – see bulletin ad page 6.

Strawberry Festival & Potluck Lunch, Sunday, June 11 – see bulletin ad page 5.

Chancel Flowers – Are you interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary some Sunday to provide beauty to worship? One or two arrangements are welcome each week and can be placed *in memory of loved ones, in celebration of an event or to honor someone*, and all to the Glory of God. **Contact Carla Lowman (412-826-5914) to RSVP your date** with info and wording for the bulletin. **Available dates: June 4, 11, 18, 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.**

Your OPC Family Cares About You! There are times when you are ill, in the hospital or in emotional need and we don't know about it, please remember to contact the church office (412.828.5770) or a staff member so we can support you in your time of need. You are loved!

Prayer Requests - Members of our church will pray for you and anyone in need. Please send prayer requests to: prayers@oakmontpresby.org or contact Carol Heimerich at 412.242.1028.

Soups On met April 20 and made Cream of Carrot Soup, Asparagus Soup and Cheesy Broccoli Chowder which are available in the downstairs freezer for a loved one or neighbor who needs a cup of cheer! **May 18 at 10am – next soup making event**

Food Donations - The Deacons thank you for your donations to the food banks at RCAC and Verona Methodist Church supporting families in our community. Please continue to place donations in the shopping carts or drop off financial donations to the office or collection plate. Questions - contact Judy Murray at 724-816-7561.

During May, Light of Life Ministries will not be taking clothing donations. They are in the process of moving to the Ridge Place building. **They still need \$5 Giant Eagle gift cards for their incentive/recognition program used at the facility.** Aunt Phyllis, our OPC donation attendant, will be on duty at the 5th street entrance to accept donations.

The Interim Pastor Search Committee - May/June will be spent reviewing/interviewing candidates. We plan to have a commitment in July with a start date in September. The Committee - Nick Kokales and Sally Huber-Lewis (co-chairs), Christine Little, Jim Kinter, Chris Hudak and Dave Geis. Feel free to ask questions. Keep them in your prayers.

OPC Film Series - Join us at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Brochures are available in the vestibules. Elevator door entrance opens at 6:15 pm. May 26 - *Operation Seawolf*

MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR!

July 14 6:00 pm, Veltre's, Dinner honoring Steve. Invitations mailed in May. RSVP required.
August 13 10:00 am, Steve's final worship service at OPC. Reception will follow.

Youth Group will resume regularly in Fall 2023. Youth will be going on a mission trip to Seth, WV **June 10-16th**. Youth are also encouraged to serve in Vacation Bible School at the end of June.

Confirmation class has finished and students read their statements of faith to Session on 5/9/23. They will be ready to join OPC on June 4th with a celebration to follow.

Mark your Calendars! Ready, Set, Move **VBS will take place June 26-30th 5:30-8:00pm**. Register online or to volunteer at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/opc23>



Strawberry Festival & Potluck Lunch

Enjoy a casual picnic-style lunch as we share "stories" of our favorite times with Steve.

Sunday, June 11

In the church dining room after 10 a.m. worship.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please sign up in the 5th Street vestibule on Sundays in May,
or contact Grace McGhee gmcgheel24@gmail.com or (412) 495-9214

Ham barbeque sandwiches and strawberry shortcake will be provided.

Last names A to F please bring cookies.
Last names G to Z please bring a side dish.



23rd Annual Jubilant Praise Concert

Sunday, May 28, 2023—4:00 pm

3:50 pm—Gathering Music begins

**The Carnegie Brass along with the Chancel Choir,
Percussion, Piano, Organ**

Sing Out My Soul

A concert of sacred and patriotic selections.

We continue the tradition of the *Armed Forces Medley*

To recognize those who serve/served our country

As we celebrate our country's heroes.

**Parking may be found across the street in the
Oak Ridge Condo (opposite corner from the church) in both
Parking lots—upper and lower (limited number of spaces).**

**Oakmont Presbyterian Church
Corner of 5th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue
www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org**



**Beginning
May 28 through September 3
worship times will be
8:30 and 10:00 am in the Sanctuary**

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY 8:30am 9:30 am 11:00 am	May 21 – Seventh Sunday of Easter Worship (Sanctuary) Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room) Worship (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream and Children’s JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)
MONDAY 12:00 pm 7:00 pm	May 22 AA’s (Multi-Purpose Room) Boy Scout Troop #854 (Multi-Purpose Room & Dining Room)
TUESDAY 7:00 pm	May 23 Our Journey Without Them (Marie Berg Chapel)
WEDNESDAY 10:00 am	May 24 Women’s AA (Dining Room)
THURSDAY 6:15 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm 8:00 pm	May 25 Instrumental Rehearsal (Sanctuary) Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) Jubilant Praise Rehearsal (Sanctuary) NA’s (Dining Room)
FRIDAY 7:00 pm	May 26 OPC Film Series (Multipurpose Room)
SATURDAY 9:00 am 8:00 pm	May 27 Refugee Team (Marie Berg Chapel) AA’s (Dining Room)
SUNDAY 8:30am 10:00 am 2:30 pm 3:50 pm 4:00 pm	May 28– Seventh Sunday of Easter Worship (Sanctuary) Worship (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream and Children’s JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) Jubilant Praise Gathering Music (Sanctuary) Jubilant Praise Concert (Sanctuary)