



**Sixth Sunday of Easter
Celebrating the Ascension of the Lord
May 5, 2024 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 and staffed during the 11:00 am service for infants to 4 years old; 10:45-12:10.

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.

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.

GATHERING IN FAITH

“Who does he think he is? He comes crashing into history, and then into our lives, and takes over, preempting our most instinctive loyalties, presuming on our deepest affections, usurping our natural ties, and asking (and so claiming) to be the most important person in our lives. We would not tolerate this presumption in most. Somehow it is appropriate in Jesus. We sense that his claim restores us to the primal family.”
Frederick Dale Bruner 2004

Trinity Chimes

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

Prelude

Organ

Hail Thee Festival Day

arr. Robert A. Hobby

Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;

Day when our risen Lord rose in the heavens to reign.

He who was nailed to the cross is ruler and Lord of all people.

All things created on earth sing to the glory of God:

Daily the loveliness grows, adorned with the glory of blossom;

Heaven her gates unbars, flinging her increase of light.

Welcome

Steve Crocco

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

Introit

Chancel Choir

God Is Gone Up with a Shout

Eric H. Thiman

God is gone up with a shout: The Lord with the sound of a trumpet. – Psalm 47:5

Leader: Our God gathers us here.

People: We have been tested, we have suffered, but God has brought us through it.

Leader: Come, let us tell of what God has done for us!

People: We cried aloud to God, and God listened and answered. Amen!

*Hymn of Praise

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 There for him high tri - umph waits, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 See! the heaven its Lord re - ceives, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 See! he lifts his hands a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!

to his throne a - bove the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
 lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates, Al - le - lu - ia!
 yet he loves the earth he leaves, Al - le - lu - ia!
 See, he shows the prints of love! Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 he has con - quered death and sin. Al - le - lu - ia!
 though re - turn - ing to his throne, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hark! His gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!

en - ters now the high - est heaven. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!
 still he calls the world his own. Al - le - lu - ia!
 bless - ings on his church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Prayer of the Day (please remain standing)

Ronnie Bailey

Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession

Ronnie Bailey

O God, we know we sin against You in thought, word, and deed. We are good at admitting our harsh and hurtful words. Our deeds of commission and omission are ever before us. Today we lift before You the sins and failures of our thoughts and minds. How we judge ourselves superior to others. How we condemn the ideas of others without listening to them.

...time for silent confession

O God, forgive the sins of our minds that we may better understand and love each other. For the sake of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Ronnie Bailey

Leader: Because Christ lives, we also live. Not because of anything we have done, not because of our belief or faithfulness: we live because Christ lives.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

*Act of Praise
Alleluia

Sung twice

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

- Text and music Jerry Sinclair

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination
Gospel Reading
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Matthew 10:32-39, 42

Sue Sanford
Pew Bible, NT, page 11

Time with the Children
As the children gather

Where Children Belong

Ronnie Bailey
Congregation Singing

This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the
wor-ship-ing throng. Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and
cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be-long.

WORDS: James Ritchie
MUSIC: James Ritchie

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RITCHIE
Irregular

Children go to JAM after time with children.

Sermon

Was Jesus an Extremist?

Steve Crocco

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Response *Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor* Hymnal, No. 154
See page 7

Faith Community Concerns, and the Pastoral Prayer Debbie Blair

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts
Call to Offering and Prayer of Dedication Debbie Blair

A Choral Offering Chancel Choir
Honored, Glorified, Exalted Randy Vader and Jay Rouse
*We exalt You as King, and proclaim You as Lord. Your people we will be.
For Your unfailing love and Your mercy to us, forever You will be.*

*Honored, glorified, exalted on Your throne;
Holy Lamb of God, we bow to You alone.
King of all kings, our joy for endless days,
Jesus, You alone are worthy of all praise.*

*In Your presence we stand, once the wounded, now whole, invited by Your grace.
Our redeemer, our God, with one voice we now sing this anthem of our praise.*

*All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name, let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.
– Randy Vader*

Invitation to the Lord's Table Debbie Blair

Responsive Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Truly it is right to give You thanks and praise, ...Even the angels delight to see Your saving power, and so they sing to You:

Sanctus

tune: *EASTER HYMN*

People singing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might,

hea - ven and the earth are full of your glo - ry, love, and light.

Bles - sed is the one who comes in your ho - ly name, O Lord.

Ho - sa - na in the high - est! Ho - sa - na in the high - est!

Leader: Thank you that to accomplish this salvation You sent Your son Jesus Christ... that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and ever tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Memorial Acclamation

tune: *EASTER HYMN*

People singing:

Dying, you de - stroyed our death; ri - sing, you re - stored our life.
 O Lord Je - sus, come in glo-ry! Ho - sa-na in the high - est!

Leader: We thank You that Christ, having ascended on high... All this we pray through Christ our King and High Priest.

Great Amen

using tune: *EASTER HYMN*

People:

A - men, a - men, a-men. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray: **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.**

Music at Communion

Organ

Prayer of Thanksgiving

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Hymn of Dedication

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

Hymnal, No. 144

See page 8

*Charge and Blessing

Steve Crocco

Postlude

Fanfare and Statement on LLANFAIR

Organ
arr. Edward Broughton

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor 154

BRYN CALFARIA 8.7.8.7.444.7.7

George Hugh Bourne, 1874; alt.

William Owen, 1852
Harm. *Christian Hymns*, 1977

1. Lord, en-throned in heav-en-ly splen-dor, First-be-got-ten from the dead,
2. Here our hum-blest hom-age pay we, Here in lov-ing rev-erence bow;
3. Pas-chal Lamb, Your of-fering, fin-ished Once for all when You were slain,
4. Life-im-part-ing heav-en-ly man-na, Smit-ten rock with stream-ing side,

You a-lone, our strong de-fend-er, Now lift up Your peo-ple's head.
Here for faith's dis-cern-ment pray we, Lest we fail to know You now.
In its full-ness un-di-min-ish-ed Shall for-ev-er-more re-main.
Heav-en and earth with loud ho-san-na Wor-ship You, the Lamb who died.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Je-sus, true and liv-ing bread! Je-sus, true and liv-ing bread!
You are here, we ask not how. You are here, we ask not how.
Cleans-ing us from ev-ery stain. Cleans-ing us from ev-ery stain.
Ris-en, as-cend-ed, glo-ri-fied! Ris-en, as-cend-ed, glo-ri-fied!

♩=69-76

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

William Chatterton Dix, 1866

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter,
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, Thou on earth our
 4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Thee the Lord of

His the throne! Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,
 sor - row now. Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us;
 food, our stay. Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful
 lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of Ma - ry,

His the vic - to - ry a - lone! Hark! the songs of peace - ful
 Faith be - lieves nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 Flee to Thee from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 Earth Thy foot - stool, heaven Thy throne. Thou with - in the veil hast

Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood; Je - sus out of
 ceived Him, When the for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
 sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me, Where the songs of
 en - tered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest; Thou on earth both

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Today we celebrate *The Ascension of the Lord (Ascension Sunday)*: The Church has traditionally marked the biblical reality of the Ascension of the Lord who now sits at the right hand of the Father with a special festival day. This day marks the rightful assumption of glory and power by the Crucified One. While the Church observes the fortieth day of the Easter season, the sixth Thursday during the Great Fifty Days, as the *Ascension of the Lord* (Ascension Day is May 10, 2018), many churches choose to celebrate this special day on the Seventh Sunday of Easter. WE are celebrating on the Sixth Sunday this year as it coincides with our celebration of the Lord's Supper. On Ascension Day (or Sunday), we make abundantly clear the connection between the Resurrection and the Ascension: Christ died and rose that we might have eternal life; and He ascended that we might be given a share in His divinity, His continuing presence, and, hence, life with God. The biblical account of the Ascension of Jesus can be found in Acts 1:1-11 and Luke 24:44-53. The liturgical color for this festival day is white and may be accented with gold and the use of other bright imagery.

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.

Sharing in the Ministry of Music: Christine Pater, Piano; Paul Banahasky, Electric Bass; Keith Parton, Drums

Flowers are given by Rob Erdeljac in memory of Jake Erdeljac.

Sunday, May 12 – 8:30 am and 11:00 am – Seventh Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day
Rev. Tim Spring will preach *And Your Name is...?* based on Acts 1:1-15; 21-26.

Early Worship at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary – a more intimate service in celebration of Christ's Resurrection, 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 11:00 am – in the sanctuary. This service continues our celebration of Christ's Resurrection and includes a fuller liturgy, with sermon and congregational hymns.
Sharing in the Ministry of Music will be the Chancel Choir.

JAM stands for "**J**esus **A**nd **M**e" and are our 2 classes for children. Kindergarten through Grade 2 and Grades 3-6. We welcome middle schoolers who want to mentor and build relationships with our younger kids. **JAM** will be held after Children's Time that takes place during worship. We will have an engaging, fun, children's sermon. Following that, children will join their classes in the upper level. Contact Ronnie with questions.

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- *The Presbyterian Hymnal – Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.
- *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise* - Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Robert Williams (1781-1821); arr. John Roberts (1822-1877). Taken from *Worship & Rejoice Hymnal* © 2001 Hope Publishing Company
- *Where Children Belong - Sing the Faith* © 2003 by Geneva Press; adapted and compiled by permission from *The Faith We Sing* © 2000 Abingdon Press. Music/text: James Ritchie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion for the Homebound. Please notify the church office if you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home (412-828-5770).

From the Deacons. Please notify Joan Massack (massack720@verizon.net) if you are aware of students in our church who are graduating from high school or college.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship - join us on Tuesday **May 7 at 8:30 am in the Dining Room.** The **Grace Notes, Riverview High School's select girl's choral group, will return for their annual visit and musical program.**

June 4 – Gary Rogers of the Oakmont Historical Society. will present a talk on *The Homefront, Life in Oakmont During World War II.*

Weekday Bible Study continues Wednesdays in the Small Group Room at 11:00am. Starting on May 8, we will turn our attention to the book of 1 John. Please read chapter one before the first session.

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 17 – *The Blind* (2023) **May 31** – *A Call to Spy* (2019)

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 2, 9, 16, 23 and 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.

Deacons - Food Donations - 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/collection plate. Questions – contact Chris Wilson at 412-779-7024. **For the month of MAY, Deacons will be collecting children's clothing.** The bin will be in the 5th Street vestibule. If you need something picked up contact Bobbie Lio 412-310-8807.

Soups On – met APR 18 and made Chicken Noodle, Cream of Carrot and Potato Leek. Stop down at the kitchen freezer and take a container to a friend, neighbor, or relative who needs a cup of cheer and to see your smiling face! Next Soups On will meet **MAY 16.**

Senior Luncheon Celebration: The invitations for the Senior Luncheon on Saturday, June 8, have been sent out. Please look for yours in the mail. This luncheon is for those who are 75 years of age and older. If you are 75 or older and do not receive an invitation, please let us know by calling or emailing Grace McGhee: 412-495-9214 or gmcghee124@gmail.com

Bridge Pastor Search Update Your Bridge Pastor Search team is earnestly working to source a Pastor equaling the level of competence, caring, ministry and compassion we are fortunate to have with Pastor Tim. Since his departure announcement a few weeks ago our team has met, edited and updated information necessary for posting this opportunity on the Presbytery website for an opening set to begin on OCT 1st. As of Wed. April 24th the position has been posted and our task of finding a talented Bridge Pastor has begun. This position is designed to last approx. 6 months until our Installed Pastor Team sources a permanent Pastor for OPC. We will continue to provide the congregation with our progress as it becomes available.

OPC Bridge Pastor Committee: Nick Kokales & Sally Huber Lewis Co Chairs, Chris Hudak, Christine Little, David Geis, James Kinter - moderated by Rev. Dr. Edwin Van Driel

SAVE THE DATES "Revamped" Vacation Bible School will take place June 10-13. We will meet in the evenings June 10-12, and on June 13 we will spend the day at Camp Crestfield. We are looking forward to having so much fun! Clear the dates as we will need volunteers to pull off yet another successful VBS for the kids! Contact Ronnie with any questions.

Scripture Readers – we are going to continue with readers through the summer. Sign up sheet is located in the church office.

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Tim E. Spring	Interim Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco	Associate Pastor
Michael P. Frank, III	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Ronnie Bailey	Education Director for Children and Youth
Maureen Stecik	Program Staff Assistant
Tracy Messenger	Financial Secretary of Accounting
Marge Kuhn	Financial Secretary of Contributions
David Brennan	Custodian
Roberta Erickson	Handbell Choir Director
Ron Burkert	AV Team Coordinator
The Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson	Honorably Retired Pastor Emeritus

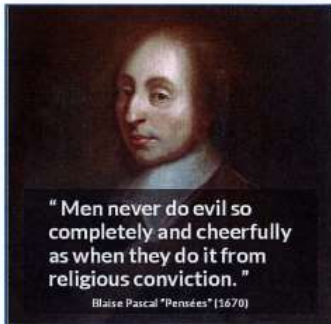
415 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139
412-828-5770 (Office)
www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	May 5 - 6th Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday
8:30 am	Worship & Communion (Sanctuary)
9:15 am	Trustees (Library)
9:30 am	Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
11:00 am	Worship & Communion (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream & children's JAM (K-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)
MONDAY	May 6
12:00 pm	AA's (Small Group Room)
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop #854/Cub Pack #137 (Multi-Purpose Room/Dining Room)
TUESDAY	May 7
8:30 am	Men's Breakfast (Dining Room)
WEDNESDAY	May 8
10:00 am	Women's AA (Dining Room)
11:00 am	Bible Study (Small Group Room)
12:15 pm	Staff (Small Group Room)
4:30 pm	JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (Choir Room)
THURSDAY	May 9
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room/Sanctuary)
8:00 pm	NA's (Dining Room)
FRIDAY	May 10
SATURDAY	May 11
8:00 pm	AA's (Dining Room)
SUNDAY	May 12 - 7th Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day
8:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 am	Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
11:00 am	Worship/Welcoming New Members (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream & children's JAM (K-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)
12:00 pm	Coffee & New Member Reception (Friendship Hall)



Beginning
May 26 through September 8
worship times will be
8:30 and 10:00 am in the Sanctuary



Religious Extremism: What's It About?

Sundays
May 5, 12 and 19, 2024
9:30 – 10:30 am
with

“Coffee and Conversation”
Oakmont Presbyterian Church **Dr. Steve Crocco**

Perhaps the easiest way to denounce a religion, a movement, or a political party today is to label it “extreme” and its practitioners as “extremists.” After considering what might count as “religious extremism,” this Adult Ed class will consider three examples: Islamicism (Islamic fundamentalism), White Christian Nationalism, and a lesser-known movement of the Religious Left that can be called “Identitarian Religious Globalism,” which can include religious supporters of Hamas. After the three sessions, you will be able to approach the fall election season with some new questions, better definitions, and a dose of skepticism.



May 5	Islam Needs a Reformation Now
May 12	White Christian Nationalism
May 19	Identitarian Religious Globalism

The Rev. Dr. Steve Crocco is the Associate Pastor at Oakmont Presbyterian Church. Prior to coming to OPC, he served as the library director at Yale Divinity School, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Steve has a Ph.D. in religious ethics from Princeton University.

!!! Come early for coffee and a donut !!!

LET THERE BE PEACE

24th Annual Jubilant Praise Concert
Sunday, May 26, 2024—4:00 pm
3:50 pm—Gathering Music begins

Featuring:

The Carnegie Brass, Chancel Choir,
JuBELLation Ringers, Piano, Organ, Percussion

A concert of sacred and patriotic selections.
We continue the tradition of honoring the *Armed Forces*
to recognize those who serve/served our country
as we celebrate our country's heroes.

Parking: on street or in the Oak Ridge Condo,
upper and lower lots (opposite corner of the church).

Oakmont Presbyterian Church