



Church of the Apostles UCC

*5th Sunday of Easter – April 28, 2024
10 AM In-Person & Online Worship*

Welcome!

“No matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!” More than words, we are all here because of God’s love, grace, and mercy. This is a community united by the honesty of our shared brokenness and the healing we receive through Christ.

Get Connected: Use a Welcome Card to share your presence and prayer requests with us. To get more connected, signup online for the “Weekly Announcements” and “Crown Newsletter,” like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram, give us a call, or send an email. It is our joy to know you!

Children: There are toys and activity bags for children in the Children’s Corner for use during worship. Our Faith Formation class for children ages 3–2nd grade will be following the Children’s Time and meet in Rm 306. Our Rooted class for youth from 3rd-9th grade will meet at 9:55AM in Rm 308.

Welcome Cards: We ask that all worshippers complete a “Welcome Card” located in the pew rack near you. This allows us to know who was with us. They can also be used to give prayer requests or suggestions. These may be placed in the offering plates which will be passed following the sermon.

Offerings: Any physical offerings you have brought can be placed in the offering plates which we will pass following the sermon. Electronic gifts may be given through the QR code on the bulletin or the one on a slip in the pew rack. Or Text 'COA' to 73256 with the amount you want to give.

Restrooms: Are available in the hallway to your left when you exit the sanctuary.

Electronic Devices: Remember to silence your device during worship. Wi-Fi is provided through "VisitorWifi." No password is needed.

You are a blessing: Let us know how we might better partner with you in this journey of faith and life. If you have thoughts, recommendations, or simply would like to join in prayer, we would love to hear from you!

Selected Scripture Readings

1 John 4:7-13 and Acts 8:16-40

Worship Leaders

Minister – All Members
Preacher – Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
Reader – Mark Achtermann
Ushers – Luane & Randy Morrison
and George Alspach
Greeter – Allison Carr
Hospitality Table – Don & Pat Hess
Director of Music – Lars Potteiger
Instrumentalist – Nathan Sheffer
Drums – Nathan Moore

Bass – Charli Schultz
Cello – Anya Sheffer
Vocals – Johanna & Jan Baker, and
The Apostles Choir
Streaming – Jaben Jury
Sound – Chris Braun
Projection – Bill Stock

Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship

Church of the Apostles, 1850 Marietta Ave, Lancaster PA 17603
717-392-5718 + office@apostlesucc.org + www.apostlesucc.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Kathryn Kuhn – kathrynk@apostlesucc.org x8201

Order of Worship

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. – 1 John 4:7

We Gather in Your Presence Welcome

Getting to Know You

Gathering Music: *Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices* - Setting by Paul Manz

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-13

Prayer

All: Creative One, come and open our hearts, our minds, and our shared sense of possibility. Help us to perceive the multitude of opportunities to live out your desires for us. As a community, fill us with passion for discerning how to live out your will and doing so with courage. Amen.

(Please rise in body and/or spirit.)

Song of Praise: "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"



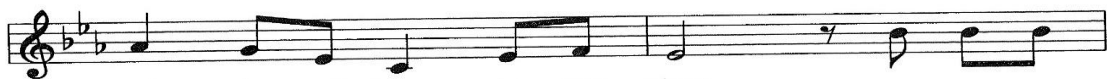
1. There's a spir - it of love in this place, there's a
(2. There's the) pres - ence of peace in this room, there's the



spir - it of love in this place. You can't
pres - ence of peace in this room. In God's



see it, but it's there just as pre-cious as the air. There's a
ten-der-ness is found peace that pass - es hu-man bounds. There's the



spir - it of love in this place. O al - le -
pres - ence of peace in this room.



lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! We bless your ho - ly

name. O al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! There's a
spir - it of love in this place. 2. There's the place.

(Please be seated)

Time of Prayer

We Listen for Your Word The Children's Time

Song: "Deep in the Shadows of the Past"

1. Deep in the shad - ows of the past, far
2. While oth - ers bowed to change - less gods they
3. From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the
4. For all the writ - ings that sur - vived, for

out from set - tled lands, some no - mads trav - eled
met a mys - ter - y, in - vis - i - ble, with -
prom - ise changed and grew, while some, re - mem - ber -
lead - ers, long a - go, who sift - ed, cop - ied,

with their God a - cross the des - ert
out a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL
ing the past, re - cord - ed what they
and pre - served the Bi - ble that we

sands. The dawn - ing hope of hu - man - kind by
BE"; and by their tents, a - round their fires, in
knew, or with their let - ters and la - ments, their
know, give thanks, and find its sto - ry yet our



them was sensed and shown; a prom - ise call - ing
sto - ry, song and law, they praised, re - mem - bered,
proph - e - cy and praise re - cov - ered, kin - dled
prom - ise, strength and call, the mod - el of e -



them a - head, a fu - ture yet un - known.
hand - ed on a past that prom - ised more.
and ex - pressed new hope for chang - ing days.
merg - ing faith, a - live with hope for all.

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-40 (NRSVUE)

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

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Contemporary Words: "Always Room"

We Respond to Your Word
Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: *"Down to the River to Pray"* - Mary McDonald

Prayers of the Community

(Believing in God's truth, we open ourselves as God's servants through prayer.)

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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 as we forgive others. And let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Returning to the World

(Please rise in body or in spirit.)

Hymn of Commitment: "Draw the Circle Wide" (SPP #123)

$\text{♩} = 132$

Draw the cir-cle_ wide. Draw it wid-er still. Let this be our_

song, no one stands a-lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle_

wide._____

To verses Last time, Fine

wide._____

1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
 2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
 3. Let the dreams we_ dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er

- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but
 great and small; let our lov - ing
 dreamed be - fore; let the dream of

held for - ev - er in God's gra - cious arms._____
 know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call._____
 Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door._____

Benediction

All: God's love guides us to welcome and include people as they are, serve compassionately, and champion environmental care and social justice.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May you be peacekeepers for Christ.

All: **And may you.**

Sending Music: “No Greater Love” – Tommy Walker [CCLI#930887](#)

Go into all the world to love and serve those who are afraid or powerless following Jesus’ example!

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Give Online Through Realm



Or Text ‘COA’ to 73256 with the amount you want to give

Prayers of Joy and Concern

(as of printing on 4/24/24)

Joys: Bill Hager’s Friend, Christina; The Graduating Class of Lancaster Theological Seminary; Celebrating Earth Day All-Year Long.

Concerns: Shirley Miller; Family & Friends of Gary Rye; Colton Eller & his Mother, Robin; Julie Becker; Family & Friends of Geri Nease; Ellen Schellenberger; Andrew & Hunter Laymon; Those Affected by Global Unrest.

To add your prayers of joy and concern, email office@apostlesucc.org
or call 717-392-5718 ext 8200

APOSTLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

NAME TAG MAGNET SHORTAGE – We are running low on magnets for name tags. Use lanyards for now, especially with thicker clothing.

SILVER, WOOD, & IVORY CONCERT TODAY – Join us at Church of the Apostles UCC today, April 28th at 3 PM for a mesmerizing performance by Silver, Wood, & Ivory! Tracy Dietrich and Cindy Wittenberg will enchant you with their musical talents, featuring 19 flutes and recorders, piano, and Celtic harp. Admission is free, and a will offering will be taken in lieu of tickets. Don't miss this extraordinary musical experience!

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE: A COMMUNITY EFFORT – A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who contributed to the success of our Annual Garage Sale! From the generous donations of items to the diligent volunteers who helped with pricing, organizing, cooking, and cashiering, your efforts did not go unnoticed. Together, we raised a total of **\$8,466.30!** Your support and dedication truly made a difference and we couldn't have done it without our amazing congregation!

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS (AND VEGGIES TOO!) – Calling all green thumbs and aspiring gardeners! Church of the Apostles UCC's Seeds for Hope gardens need YOUR help to continue growing our bountiful harvest for local food pantries. Did you know we donated about 1000 lbs of fresh vegetables in 2023? No gardening experience or large time commitments required – we'll provide the training and only ask for one hour a week of your time. Join us in this good cause and make a difference in our community! Contact our garden coordinator, Carol Nielsen, at (717) 391-2815 or carolathomestead@gmail.com to volunteer. Let's roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty together!

FUNDING OUR FUTURE – Join Church of the Apostles UCC and the Hempfield Community Belonging Initiative for an enlightening discussion on the importance of securing fair education funding in PA. Held in the Sanctuary on May 2nd, 2024, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Registration is encouraged but not required. Secure your spot using the QR code to the right.



EXPLORE THE BOOK OF JAMES – Tuesday Tussles with God will resume on Tuesdays in May with an engaging study of the book of James, exploring themes of faith, community, and perseverance. Please feel free to invite friends and neighbors to join us on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in Burkholder Chapel at Homestead Village. To receive advanced preparation materials please email office@apostlesucc.org. No need to re-register if you're already signed up. We are looking forward to our discussions in May!