



Church of the Apostles UCC

5th Sunday of Easter – May 18, 2025

50th Anniversary Celebration Worship

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 as children are always welcome to remain in worship. Our Faith Formation class for children ages 3–2nd grade will be meeting in Rm 306 following the Children’s Time in worship. Our “Rooted” class for youth in grades 3rd–9th meet in Rm 310 beginning at 9:55 am.

Connection Cards: We ask that all worshippers complete a “Connection 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.

First-Time Guests: After worship, please visit our Welcome Center, where a congregation member will be available to answer your questions and provide a packet of information about our church. This is also where you'll receive a connection card to fill out, helping us stay connected with you!

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

Acts 11:1-18 & John 13:31-35

Worship Leaders

Minister – All Members
Preacher – Rev. William P. Worley
Reader – Andy Appel
Rev. Karen Lovelace,
Rev. Ann Few
Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
Ushers – Michelle and Jim Wherley
Greeter – Karen Braun
Director of Music – Lars Potteiger

Instrumentalist - Nathan Sheffer
Drums – Nathan Moore
Bass – Charli Schultz
Vocals – Johanna & Jan Baker,
and the Apostles Choir
Sound – Bill Stock
Projection – Benja Stoltzfus
Streaming – Jaben Jury

Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship

Church of the Apostles, 1850 Marietta Ave, Lancaster PA 17603
717-392-5718 + office@apostlesuuc.org + www.apostlesucc.org

Pastor: Rev. Kathryn Kuhn – kathrynk@apostlesucc.org x8201

Order of Worship

We Gather in Your Presence Welcome

Gathering Music: "Welcome" – Laurie Zelman & Mark A. Miller

We Take the Cup of Freedom to Love

All: I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.
I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.

Prayer

All: God of Freedom, our hearts are full because of your presence and compassion. Let us reach far and wide with the hands of love so that all may know freedom in you. We come to you in this moment, cups running over with thanksgiving. Amen!

(Please rise in body and/or spirit.)

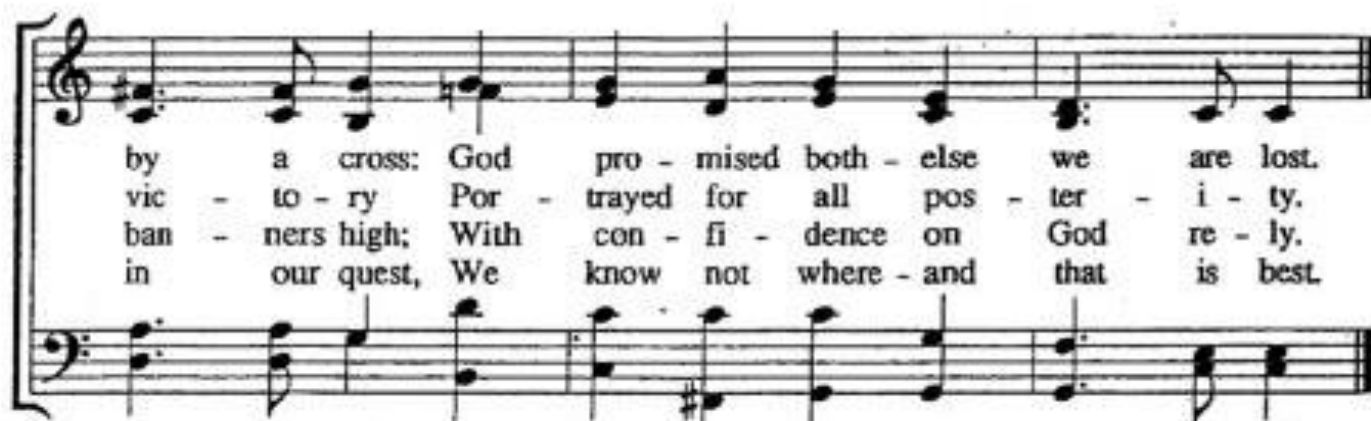
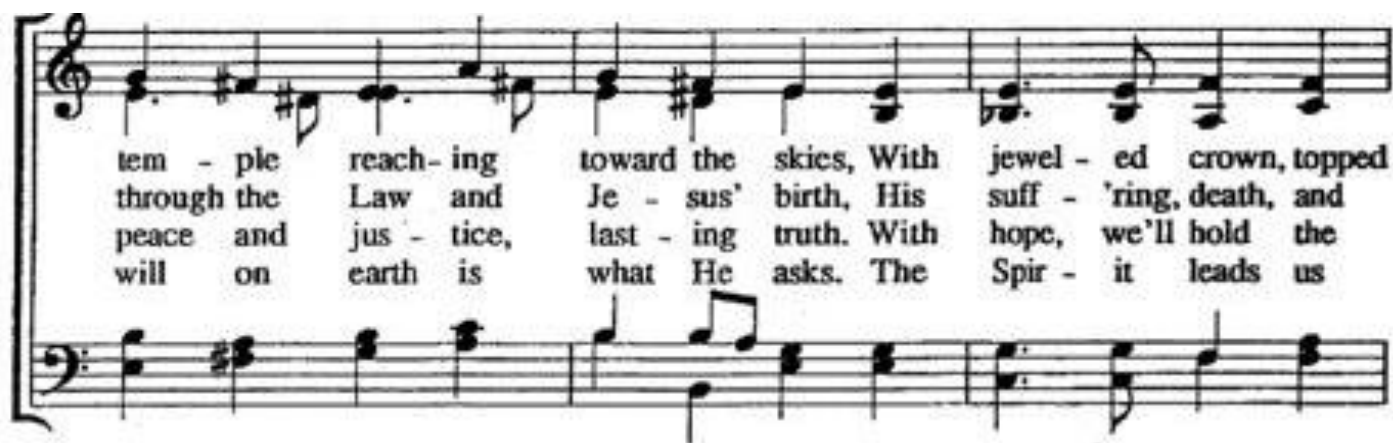
Song: "Church of the Apostles Hymn"

Evelyn Albertson, 1981, 1984

John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

1. The hopes and dreams of youth and age E - merged at last from
2. This tem - ple to our God was planned, His stor - y shown in
3. De - vot - ed choirs help us to sing With prais - es to our
4. Now whith - er does our mis - sion lead? 'Tis based on Love - no

plan - ning stage: For from the earth we saw a - rise A
win - dows grand: Cre - a - tion, to God's will on earth, Down
Lord and King. Our ea - ger child - ren, quest - ing youth Seek
sim - ple creed, Our faith in God - no eas - y, task, His



(Please be seated)

Prayer of Confession

All: Change is hard. We think we know things, and it becomes very difficult to let go of old ideas and embrace new ones.
 In a world that is ever-changing, we want consistency.
 In a world where uncertainty appears at every turn, we want to know what will happen next.
 Yet you, loving God, challenge us,
 and you call us to new ways of seeing the world around us.
 Forgive us our hard heartedness *(pause)*.
 Forgive us our resistance to change *(pause)*.
 Forgive us our judgments based on old ideas *(pause)*.
 Forgive us our rejection of the new things you are forever bringing into our lives *(pause)*.
 Refresh us with your new and eternal Spirit.

(Time of reflection)

Leader: The stone is rolled away – we are released!
 The tomb is empty – we can be free!
 Christ is risen – life can be full!
 And all God's people say, **"Amen."**

Song: "Oh How He Loves You and Me" (Praise Book #31)

Oh how He loves you and me. Oh how He loves you and

me. He gave His life, what more could He give?

Oh how He loves you; Oh how He loves me; Oh how He

loves you and me! me!

We Listen for Your Word

Children's Time

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18 (Pew Bible, NT p.130)

Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35 (Pew Bible, NT p.108)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Contemporary Words: "Free to Love" – Rev. William P. Worley

We Respond to Your Word

Generosity Moment

Special Music: "We Are the Church" – Rojahn/Dengler

Prayers of the Community & Lord's Prayer

"God of Freedom, God of Justice" Tune: PICARDY

God of freedom, God of justice,
You whose love is strong as death,
You who saw the dark of prison,
You who knew the price of faith—
Touch our world of sad oppression
With Your Spirit's healing breath.

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 temp-
tation, 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.)

Song: "They'll Know We Are Christians" (Chalice #494)

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain C G C G Em Am

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

Benediction

All: The Divine One has blessed us with the cup of Life.
The Divine One has blessed us with the cup of Goodness.
The Divine One has blessed us with the cup of Freedom.
Drink deeply!

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 the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Sending Music: "Prelude in C" – Krebs

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

[Liturgy comes from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022. Easter 5*
“*Cup of Freedom*” by Marcia McFee from the Worship Design Studio, 2025
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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 5/14/2025)

Joy: Celebrating 50 Years of Faith, Community & Fellowship together!

Concerns: Duke Gabriel; Gary Whol; Ellen Schellenberger; Family & Friends of Russell Wilson; Friends of Bill Hager, Christina & Dee; Dennis Eyrych; Ed Bergen; Maggie Phillips; Jim Stoltzfus’ mother, Elaine; Laura Bender; Barbara Golden’s cousins, Kit & Jerry.

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

APOSTLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LANCASTER INTERFAITH COALITION – Join us for an interfaith gathering on **Friday, May 31st from 12:30–2:30 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall of Church of the Apostles UCC**. Together, we’ll explore how to stay grounded and connected when life gets hard, through four short presentations by Jewish, Christian, and Earth-centered speakers. Afterward, enjoy **lunch from Shah’s Halal** and engaging table conversation with members of the larger interfaith community. All are welcome! Scan the QR Code to Register!



PICNIC IN RADER PARK – Join us at Rader Park on June 8th at 11 AM as we celebrate 50 years of faith and community! Bring a blanket and enjoy a fun-filled day with free yard games, a PHREDD Ukulele performance at noon, and a fishing derby at the pond! We'll be serving up hot dogs, chips, cookies, and ice pops—just bring yourself and a drink! All are welcome for family fun! Scan the QR Code to register!



TERRIFIC TUESDAYS – Join us in Rader Park this summer for four weeks of fun, learning, and outdoor adventure during **Terrific Tuesdays** from **10–11:30 AM**, starting **June 17**! Children ages **3–10** are invited to explore the world of pollinators in Rader Park—bees, butterflies, and caterpillars—through hands-on, nature-based activities. Snacks will be provided, and a guardian must stay with their child throughout the program. Don't miss out—**scan the QR code to register!**



ASTRAL PROJECTIONS – On June 19th at 7:30 PM, be mesmerized by an evening of music and astronomy with **Astral Harp Productions**! This free concert, part of the Apostles Academy of Arts 2025 Summer Concert Series, blends breathtaking astrophotography with stellar harp performances for a one-of-a-kind multimedia experience. Husband and wife duo Kevin and Janet bring their expertise in astronomy and music to the stage. Don't miss this unforgettable journey through the stars!

MOCKTAILS & MEANING – Church of the Apostles UCC invites you to our next **Mocktails & Meaning** session on **Juneteenth, June 19th, 2025 at 6:30 PM**, as we explore the history of the Underground Railroad in Southeastern PA and the pivotal events of our nation's first civil rights movement. Our guest speaker, Mr. Randy Harris of the upcoming Stevens and Smith Center for History and Democracy, will offer insight into Lancaster's role in the fight for freedom and equality. Enjoy thoughtful conversation and a refreshing Blue Lagoon Mocktail. Register now to be part of this meaningful evening, scan the QR code!



HISTORY OF THE APOSTLES HYMN

Evelyn Albertson, a long-time COA member (Council Secretary at St. Paul's) and a retired elementary teacher from Manheim Township, was the author of the "Church of Apostles Hymn". She got her inspiration from, of all things, a traffic jam.

In the beginning stages of the merger of St. John's and St. Paul's, Harold Shaar, director of music at St. Paul's, asked Evelyn to write a poem which could be set to music to celebrate the new Church of the Apostles. Evelyn was looking for inspiration as she drove to the church on ground-breaking day, December 11, 1977. Approaching the church, she became ensnared in a traffic jam with cars converging from all directions and merging onto Apostle Way. "This is a true merger," thought Evelyn. Thus, the inspiration for the hymn was born.

The first verse describes the converging of joyous people for the ground-breaking and continues to describe the aims, goals, and dreams of the church. Unfortunately, Mr. Shaar did not live to write the music to Evelyn's poem. She consulted with Janet Rader who agreed that the tune "Melita" ("Eternal Father, Strong to Save" - also known as the Navy Hymn) was a perfect match.

Taken from the bulletin in January 1995 to celebrate our 20th Anniversary.