

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Pastor Janine Shearer

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Sixth Sunday of Easter † May 6 & 9, 2021

P - Pastor ♦ C - Congregation ♦ A - Assisting Minister

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C Amen.

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

P "We pray with you if you are like Tamar, struggling with infertility, or a miscarriage.

I want you to know that I'm praying for you if you are like Rachel, counting the women among your family and friends who year by year and month by month get pregnant, while you wait.

We pray with you if you are like Naomi, and have known the bitter sting of a child's death.

We pray with you if you are like Joseph and Benjamin, and your Mom has died.

We pray with you if your relationship with your Mom was marked by trauma, abuse, or abandonment, or she just couldn't parent you the way you needed.

We pray with you if you've been like Moses' mother and put a child up for adoption, trusting another family to love the child you birthed into adulthood.

We pray with you if you've been like Pharaoh's daughter, called to love children who are not yours by birth (and thus the mother who brought that child into your life, even if it is complicated).

We pray with you if you, like many, are watching (or have watched) your mother age, and disappear into the long goodbye of dementia.

We pray with you if you, like Mary, are pregnant for the very first time and waiting breathlessly for the miracle of your first child.

We pray with you if you, also like Mary, have watched your beautiful, black or brown-skinned baby murdered by the empire. And even still all you can do is weep and rage.

We pray with you if your children have turned away from you, painfully closing the door on relationship, leaving you holding your broken heart in your hands. And like Hagar, now you are mothering alone.

We pray with you if motherhood is your greatest joy and toughest struggle all rolled into one. We pray with you if you are watching your child battle substance abuse, a public legal situation, mental illness, or another situation which you can merely watch unfold. We pray with you if you like so many women before you do not wish to be a mother, are not married, or in so many other ways do not fit into societal expectations. We pray with you if you carry the beautiful, exhausting, maddening, heart breaking, wonderful labor of mothering even though you do not have children of your own. We pray with you if you see yourself reflected in all, or none of these stories. This mother's day, wherever and whoever you are, we walk with you. You are loved. You are seen. You are worthy. And may you know the deep love without end of our big, wild, beautiful God who is the very best example of a parent that we know. Amen." - A prayer for Mother's Day, revised by Heidi Carrington Heath and Janine Shearer (based on a version originally by Amy Young)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold

the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

¹Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²**O Lord, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the Lord, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the Lord | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the Lord.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to | judge the earth.**

⁹The Lord will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers

the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer,

because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P The Gospel of our Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *What Wondrous Love Is This*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

APOSTLES’ CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

A Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

A Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering especially we remember those in our hearts and minds. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Altar Flowers

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Joe & Julie Kohout in honor of Ryan's graduation.

This week please hold in prayer: Karl & Oneta Wiechers, Mary Lou Zwiebel, Rick Ford, Paul Mowery, Juanita Clausen, Karen Fruth, Phyllis Wenner, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

Pentecost

Sunday, May 23, is Pentecost! Remember to wear RED on that day!!! (Thursday night worshipers could wear red on May 20!)

BIBLE STUDY: Next weeks readings are: First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, Second Reading: 1 John 5:9-13, Gospel: John 17:6-19. Please join us weekly on Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom. We discuss the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Some guiding questions are: what sticks out, what are you noticing, and what is challenging you in this text. We have a lot of fun and learn some, too! We would love for you to join us! You can join host Carey Plummer and Pastor Janine Shearer a little before the hour by entering the following information on the Zoom page: Meeting #817 3901 3743 and Password: church12. No need to be a Bible scholar!! Just have your Bible handy!!

JOIN US in reading the New Testament in chronological order in 2021! This week's readings are:

May 9: Luke 2

May 13: Luke 6

May 10: Luke 3

May 14: Luke 7

May 11: Luke 4

May 15: Luke 8

May 12: Luke 5

Our Caring Corner ministry for May is highlighting the Community Pregnancy Center (CPC) Women's Health Resource. The agency offers pregnancy support, post-abortion support, parenting classes, ultrasounds, pregnancy needs, and many other services for individuals who find themselves facing an planned or unplanned pregnancy.

We encourage our congregation members to purchase items that are needed. They can be dropped off at the Caring Corner located next to the overflow area in the sanctuary. Specific items that are needed are:

Diapers (sizes 2-6)

Crib sheets

Receiving blankets

Baby wipes

Onesies

Burp cloths

As always, you have the opportunity to also give monetarily. It is easy to contribute monetarily. Simply mark the amount you would like to give on your offering envelope or insert a note if you mail your offering to Emanuel.

Offering

If you are interested, you may sign up for Simply Giving through Vanco by contacting treasurer Julie Kohout, or send your offering to Emanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545. **Please do not send cash in the mail!**

Available now, Mobile and OnLine Donations

GivePlus Mobile App

1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Find our church by our zip code **43545** or by searching for the name of our church.

GivePlus Online

1. Visit our website at **EmanuelNapoleon.org**
2. Locate the link Give at the top of the page.

You can make a one-time contribution or a recurring gift. Any questions, please contact Julie Kohout.

*Happy Mother's Day
to all Moms*

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AS YOU LEAVE CHURCH
PLEASE EXIT THE SOUTH DOORS FACING DOLLAR GENERAL
IF YOU USED THE ELEVATOR EXIT THROUGH THE ELEVATOR**

Plan of Return

We look forward to being in person for worship again soon!

Here are some reminders as we dream and move forward:

- Masks, distancing and hand hygiene are key!
- Get vaccinated when you can! If you need help registering, call the office M-Th 9-5 and we will help!
- If you have symptoms, stay home!
- Worship will be available online as well as in person.
- The HVAC has been set up and it is running continuously. When the fan is on the air is turned over frequently and goes through a filter as well as a UV light that was installed specifically to kill covid and other germs.
- Keep in mind that not everyone is vaccinated. This includes those who choose not to be vaccinated and those under age 16.
- Weddings and funerals will follow these worship guidelines.
- The Plan of Return team (Pastor Janine, Carey Plummer, Joe Kohout, Joe Knepley, Barb Hoffman, and Phyllis Kloos) will continue to meet to advise council when we move to the next phase.

PHASES

Phase 1:

Orange or April 29

- Masks required the whole service over mouth and nose
- Every other pew* used along with balcony distancing and overflow seating
- Stay home if sick
- Enter through North door or Elevator, exit through South door or elevator

Phase 2:

- Plan from Phase 1 remains
- Soloist can sing unmasked 9ft away from others
- Final hymn can be sung by masked congregation (with time for folks to leave before if uncomfortable with communal singing)
- Meetings of more than 10 people can happen- still masked and distanced

Phase 3

(we are far from this)

- Pass offering plate
- Handshakes for peace
- Coffee hour/potlucks
- Congregation sings all the hymns.
- Choirs return

When appropriate

- Doors unlocked during day
- Contact tracing list replaced by checking cameras
- Enter/Exit any door
- Soul Food- Fall start is goal

Why Now?

- We followed Bishop Daniel Beaudoin's guidance to "hold steady" in January and again in March. He invited us to dream forward in March and to connect with our Health Department. They have approved our plan.
- Anyone 16 and older who wants to be vaccinated can be, which adds an extra layer of protection.
- Henry County spread is happening mostly in small, unmasked gatherings. We are committed to masking, which keeps us safer.

*Every 3rd pew was used previously. We are shifting to every other pew. Pews are 5.5ft apart. Sit at an angle from the person in front of you to achieve 6ft distance.