

# The MESSENGER

April 2020

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## *Staff*

**The Rev. Jeffrey Lang**

**Amy**

Director of Music and Organist

**Kate**

Choir Director

**Deborah**

Administrative Assistant

Items for the **May** edition of this newsletter are accepted in the church office through **9:00AM, Monday, April 20.**

*Early submissions are always joyfully accepted!*

Submitted information will be edited for clarity, accuracy, and length.

As you receive this April newsletter, church has not met in two weeks. We anticipate another month without activities, including Sunday worship.



During this time of social distancing, we can continue to pray for one another and our world. Perhaps we can look at this time as an opportunity to slow down and to deliberately cultivate our relationship with God. The deeper our relationship with God the more we will be empowered, encouraged, and equipped to help those around us.

Jesus prayed for the unity of God's people in John's Gospel, chapter 17. In that prayer we are witness to Jesus' belief that there is an essential unity among Christians that transcends space and time. That is the truth we confess in the Apostles' Creed when we affirm the 'communion of saints.' That turn of phrase expresses the conviction that God's people are united across long ages, differences of race or language, geographical distance, even the boundary of the grave.

Nothing can separate God's people from one another or the love of God. So, while we may for a time refrain from worship and activities at our church facilities, we are together and united in and by the risen Jesus who lives within each one us.

During this down time, if you need someone to run an errand for groceries or other supplies, please do not hesitate to contact the church office. Please leave a message if Debbie doesn't answer. I will be happy to make the supply run for you. In addition, if you know of a neighbor in need, there are many resources and helping organizations in our area that are working to support people through the current crisis. We can pass information along to anyone in need.

~ Jeffrey

# Private Worship

The Westminster Assembly was a group of theologians appointed by the English parliament that met between 1643 and 1653 in order to reform the Church of England. Through some twists and turns of English ecclesiastical and political history, the assembly which met to reshape the Anglican church produced the confessional documents used by the Church of Scotland and Presbyterians generally since the 17th Century.

Given the social distancing in which we are engaged at present, it might be helpful to review the suggestions provided by the Westminster Assembly for private or family worship. Private worship was to be practiced in relation to the regular church service during ordinary circumstances, or as its own devotional practice in extraordinary occasions.

*The Westminster Directory for Private (Family) Worship* suggests worship at home include: prayer, scripture reading, and discussion of the reading. Private prayer is structured along the same lines as the pastoral prayer during a

regular Sunday worship service: confession of sin, prayer for the church and civil authorities, petition, praise and intercession. If you live alone, you can still structure your private worship along the lines suggested by the Westminster Directory by reading a portion of scripture, reflecting on its meaning and offering prayer for yourself and others.

Ultimately, the church will again gather once the Wuhan virus has been brought under control. The sacraments will be celebrated. The choir and congregation will join voices in song. Worship will take place in gathered community. Until then, we look to our rich heritage as Christians and Presbyterians of private worship in times of plague, persecution, or geographic isolation. We may be physically separated for another month or two, but our spirits are united as we offer worship to the Source of life and love.

May you know the sure and sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit as we continue working together to limit social contact and bring the threat of illness to a speedy conclusion.



## *Online Devotional and Bible Study Resources*

*Our Daily Bread*  
<https://odb.org/>

*The Upper Room*  
<https://www.upperroom.org/>

*Guideposts*  
<https://www.guideposts.org/>



### Sentences for Palm Sunday

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!

*Psalm 118:26*

### Prayer of the Day for Palm Sunday

We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ,  
who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph  
and was proclaimed Messiah and king  
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.  
Let these be signs of his victory,  
and grant that we who carry them  
may follow him in the way of the cross,  
that, dying and rising with him,  
we may enter into your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for Palm Sunday:

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66



### Sentences for Maundy Thursday

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.  
Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.

*John 13:34*

Beloved people of God:

This is the day when Christ, our Passover Lamb, surrendered himself to those who would kill him, setting us free from sin and death forever.

This is the day when Christ, our Teacher and Lord, knelt down to wash the disciples' feet, showing us how to love and serve one another.

This is the day when Christ, the bread of heaven, shared a holy meal with his followers, offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all.

### Prayer of the Day - Maundy Thursday

O God, your love is embodied in Jesus Christ,  
who washed disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal.

Wash us from the stain of sin, so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail,  
but follow your Son through every trial, and praise him always as Lord and Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for Maundy Thursday:

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel Reading: John 13:1-17, 31b-35





### Sentences for Good Friday

Christ Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

Blessed is the name of the Lord.

*1 Peter 2:24*

### Prayer of the Day for Good Friday

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family,  
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed  
and to be given over to the hands of sinners,  
and to suffer death on the cross;  
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for Good Friday

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm: Psalm 22

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25

Gospel: John 18:1-19:42



### Prayer of the Day for the Great Vigil of Easter (Saturday)

Eternal giver of life and light,  
this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ.  
Renew your church with the Spirit given us in Baptism,  
that we may worship you in sincerity and truth,  
and shine as a light in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for the Great Vigil

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:3-11

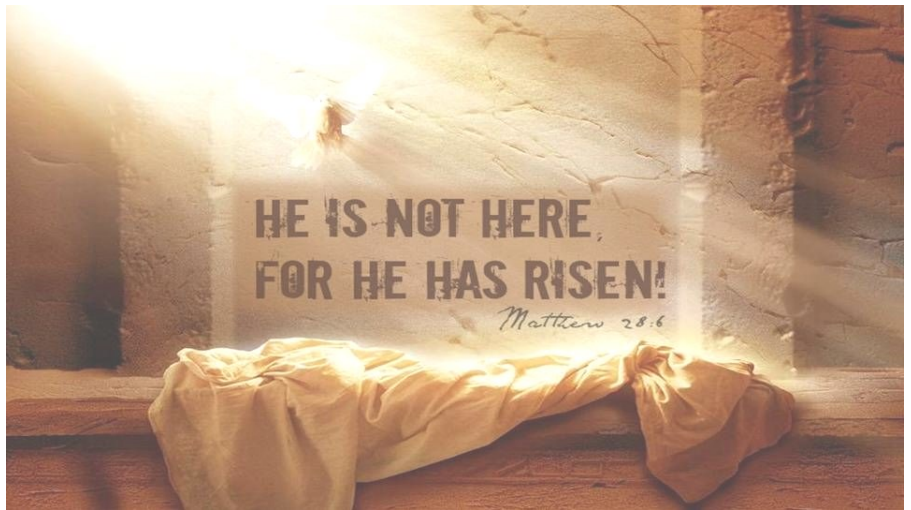
Psalm: Psalm 114

Gospel: John 20:1-8

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into  
heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He  
shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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



### Sentences for Easter

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

*Luke 24:34*

### Prayer of Adoration

Glory to you, O God:  
you have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave  
and giving us eternal life.  
Glory to you, O Christ:  
for us and for our salvation, you overcame death and opened  
the gate to everlasting life.  
Glory to you: O Holy Spirit:  
you lead us into the truth.  
Glory to you: O Blessed Trinity,  
now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for Easter Sunday

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4  
Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

## First Presbyterian Church, Glendale

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Glendale, OH 45246

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firstpresbyterianglendale.org



The Reverend Jeffrey Lang

*worship begins at 10:30AM*  
*September 8, 2019 - June 7, 2020*

Shared with you in Christian love



*Thank  
you*

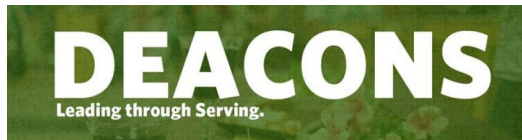
... to our teachers, police officers,  
fire fighters, first responders, medical  
personnel, military personnel, mail  
carriers, government personnel, cashiers,  
food service providers, trash collectors,  
and everyone helping to feed our  
precious children while school is  
closed ...



... all medical personnel, those who are ill,  
who are grieving the loss of loved ones, whose  
livelihood is threatened by business closures,  
who are sheltering in place in unsafe or abusive  
environments, who are struggling with isolation,  
loneliness, or addiction, who are separated from  
loved ones ...

*We will get through this together!*





The Deacons offer prayer, companionship, rides, or meals, but don't always know where care is needed. If you know of a need (your own or another's), call the church office or any of our Deacons: Susan A, Susan G, Jane J, Sonya K, Susy S (Moderator)

### In our thoughts and prayers ...

Sylvia A  
William B  
Dottie and Howard E  
Sonya K  
Eloise M  
Jackie O  
Karen W  
military and law enforcement personnel



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Addison C .....	3
Betty R.....	8
Pelham L.....	10
<i>Kathleen and Tom D</i> .....	17
Zachary H.....	21
David B .....	24
<i>Dorothy and Howard E</i> .....	28
Fern E.....	29
Marianna B.....	30

We are hearing those words—cancelled and postponed—a lot these days. We are being asked to stay at home, to practice social distancing, to wash our hands often, to not touch our faces, to help our neighbors.

This 'new normal' we find ourselves living often feels restraining and uncomfortable. But here we are, living this new normal as best we can.



The new normal at church is the cancellation of *all* activities through April 30 and the reduction of church office hours to Monday and Thursday only, 9:00AM-3:00PM each day. (Debbie will be available for additional days and hours in the office should the need arise.)

Wash your hands often and with copious amounts of soap, practice social distancing, stay healthy, and remember that God is, and remains, in control.

We offer a gentle reminder that while worship is cancelled bills continue to arrive and must be paid—water, electric, lawn care, and salaries, just to name a few—so we respectfully ask that you consider mailing your tithes and offerings to the church.



I will be in the church office weekly to collect, record, and deposit your financial gifts.

Respectfully,  
Matt B  
Financial Secretary

I want you to think back to a time when you were a child and as all children do, you got into a race. Maybe it was in school, maybe it was with a friend or your brother or sister. Do you remember running as fast as you could with someone gaining on you? Your breath is coming hard, yet you keep on running. A pain starts up in your side, yet the sheer exhilaration of the race keeps you going. At the finish line, you collapse on the grass. You won! Yes, you won! What joy!



Giving is like that—the strange combination of effort, a painful stretching of yourself, leading to joy. Give till you feel the joy. Run the race set before you. Make a difference!

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."*

Hebrews 12:1

*The Promise  
of Easter*

