

* THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer"

*Hear our prayer, O Lord. hear our prayer, O Lord.
Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us thy peace.*

SERMON

Rev. David A. Jones

OUR OFFERING AND OFFERTORY "How Firm a Foundation" Terry Kirkland

* THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* LORD'S PRAYER (using debts and debtors)

* BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

* HYMN "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" (insert)

* SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE "Be Exalted, O God"

Brent Chambers

*Please stand as you are able

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St. Mark's United Church of Christ

426 North Eighth Street

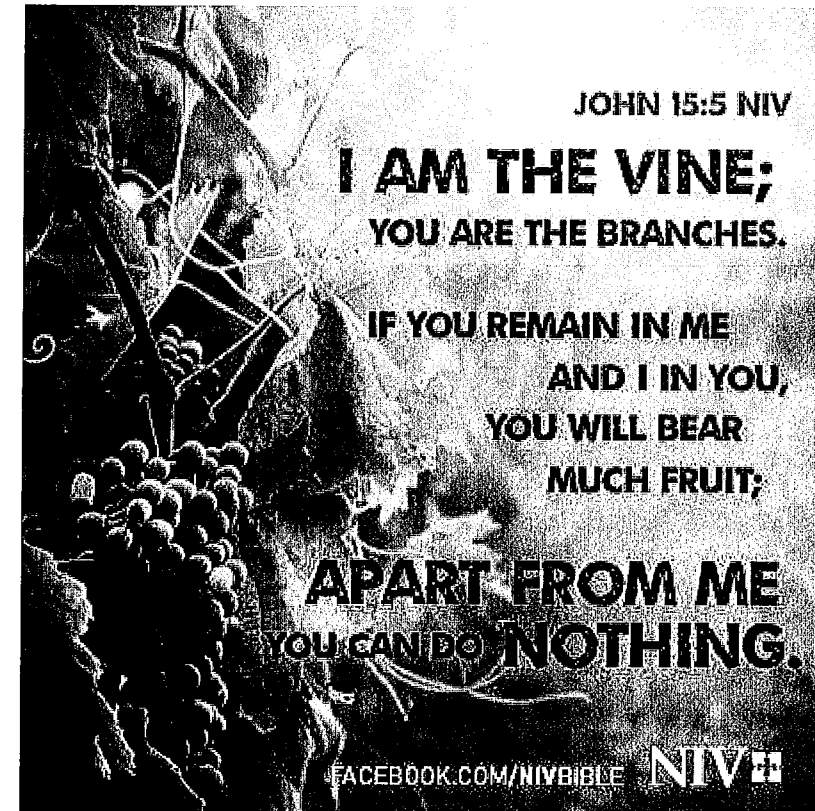
Lebanon, PA 17046

(717) 273-0151

E-mail: st.marks426@verizon.net

Website: www.saintmarksucc.com

Rev. David A. Jones, Pastor



April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Reader: Steve Snyder

God is Still Speaking ...

"God doesn't want me to do more for Him. God wants me to be more with Him."
- Bruce H. Wilkinson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Worship Medley" Don Wyrzten

* SOLEMN DECLARATION AND SUNG AMEN

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches...Abide in me as I abide in you."

People: **We come to reaffirm and renew our connection with the life-giving Vine.**

Pastor: Jesus said, "This is my commandment; love one another as I have loved you."

People: **Christ, you are the Vine. We are the branches. We will bear your fruit. We will abide in your love and share it!**

* HYMN #68 (Green Hymnal) "We Praise Thee, O God Our Redeemer"

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Comforting God, we confess the emptiness in our lives which sends us searching for all those things which cannot nourish us. Our trust in the hollow promises of our culture turns us away from the shelter you offer to us. Forgive us, and call us back from our wayward lives, so we may find the rest we need and the healing we desire in the stillness of your gentle heart...

Silent confession...

* KYRIE ELEISON

*Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.*

* WORDS OF GRACE AND MERCY

This is the good news: God walks with us every moment, God will fill us with goodness and mercy, and God will bring us home to live forever. Anointed with grace and forgiveness, our lives overflow with love for all people. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Am the Vine" Robert G. Farrell
Choir

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (insert)

PROCLAIMING OUR FAITH – THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten 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 Hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on 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.

THE SCRIPTURES (insert)

New Testament Acts 8: 26 - 40
*Gospel John 15: 1 - 8

We acknowledge our responsibility to ensure we use the resources of water well, and make available future resources for our children and their children. We give thanks for the gift of this water. May it be the birthing waters of a new and holy life. In the name of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**


The Baptism

Baptismal Hymn

"God Claims You"

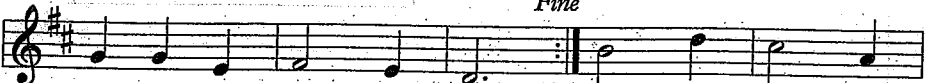
God Claims You 2249

*Refrain**



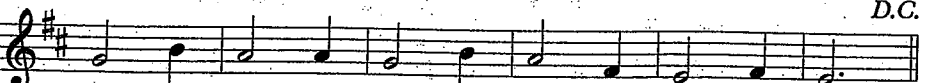
Finn Finn God claims you, God helps you, pro -

Fine



fects you, and loves you, too. 1. We this day do
***2. We your fam - ily
3. We are here to
4. And if you should

D.C.



all a - gree a child of God you'll al - ways be.
love you so, we vow to help your faith to grow.
say this day that we will help you on your way.
tire or cry then we will sing this lul - la - by.

**Sing Refrain twice at beginning and end, and once between stanzas.*

***May insert child's name.*

****May insert parents' names "Jeff and Kathy love you so, we vow ..."*

WORDS: Stanley M. Farr

MUSIC: Stanley M. Farr

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FARR
Irregular with Refrain

The Sacrament



Of Baptism

Finn Patrick Sullivan

April 28th, 2024

Baptism is the church's way of celebrating and naming the grace of God living in every one of God's children. As we have come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many different parts, all of the parts make up the body. Likewise we are many, yet we are one body, the body of Christ.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the Gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

This is the water of Baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.

Will you teach this child that he may lead to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help him become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that he may affirm his baptism?

Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized as he lives and grows in Christ?

Congregation: We promise our love, support, and care.

Let us unite with the Church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

The Apostle's Creed (see main bulletin)

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you! **And also with you.**

God is the heart of life. **And we are the heartbeat.**

May our hearts be filled with thanks and praise and songs of joy.

We rejoice in the miracle of life and delight in our participation.

Water is a precious commodity...water is everything. Water is life. We claim the joy of water and the way it sustains and nourishes us.

Let it flow and pour for all people, that all may know each day the gift of God in water.

Biblical stories talk of the preciousness of water. These stories remind us that water is a blessing and the source and strength of life. Without it, humanity and all that is created could not survive. And our stories remind us that God's way is the way of compassion and love.

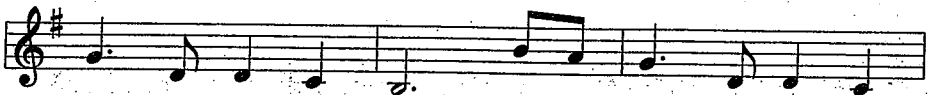
God's love, like a shower of rain in drought, awakens the sleeping seed within the soul and lures it to blossom. God's love, like a paddling pool, inspires the responsive love of children, jumping, splashing each other, shivering with wet delight. God's love, like a shower after a long day's work, cleanses us, reawakens us. God's love, like waves crashing on the shore, breaks in on us and enfolds us, leaving us feeling vital and refreshed.

So let's give thanks for this love that reaches out to us in what we say and do in love for this child whom we are welcoming into our midst. We gather to pray, believing that God prays in us.

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry



1. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 3. "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was
 5. "In the mid - dle ag - es of your life, not too
 7. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



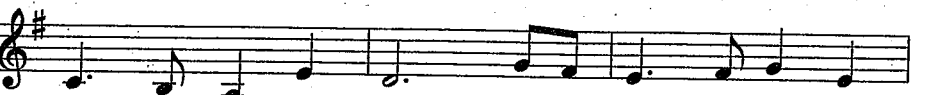
there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old, I re - joiced the day you



were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold."



2. I was there when you were but a child, with a
 4. If you find some - one to share your time and you
 6. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you



faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have



wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

Scripture Readings

and

Closing Hymn

April 28th, 2024

Acts 8: 26 – 40

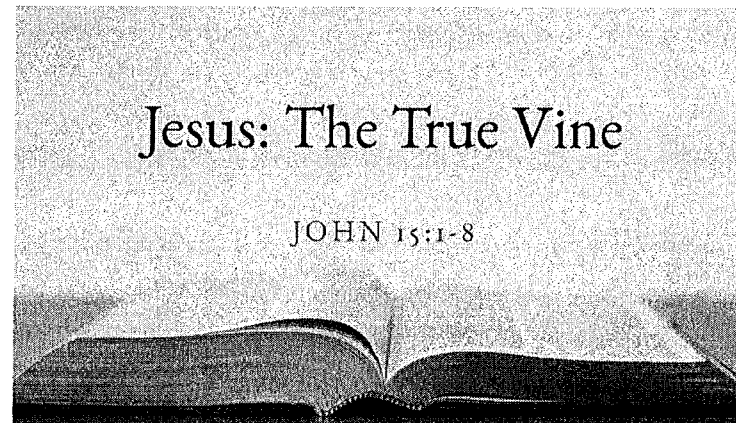
Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found

himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

John 15: 1 – 8

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."



ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST

Andy Shearer
Deb Weise
Ken and Charlotte Wengert
Lynn Balmer
David Ansalvish (Cindy Johnson's Brother)
Rod Nissley (Deb Ellis' son)
David Minnich (Friend of Deb Ellis)
Heather Whorley
Stephanie Wagner (Faye Fox's niece)
Jeffrey Clouser
Trudy Berkheimer
John Blanda (Lynn Balmer's brother-in-law)
Ed Olden
Shirley Shaak
Marie DiFava
John Schieber
Trudy Carrnany (Becky Colban's cousin)
Cindy Johnson
Eva Miller
Andrew Scholl (Becky Colban's nephew)
Linda Brandt
Regine Halsall (Friend of Deb Ellis)
Meg Nagel
Members from our church family who are shut-in or
home bound
The People of Ukraine
The Victims of War in Israel and Palestine

ST. MARK'S CALENDAR **For the Week of April 28, 2024**

Sunday Choir Practice – 8:30 AM
 Koffee Klatsch – 9:30-10 AM and 11-11:15 AM
 Worship Service – 10:00
 Adult Sunday School – 11:15 AM
 Hoss's Day – 11 AM to 8 PM

Wednesday Bible Study – 10 AM



ST. MARK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the Communion Table are presented by Rosy Gonzalez in memory of her father, Victor Gonzalez.

The bulletins are presented to the Glory of God.

Flowers and Bulletins – Dates available for flowers are: June 2, 9, 23 and 30. Dates available for bulletins are: May 5 and 19. Please contact the office if interested in sponsoring any flowers or bulletins.

Kid's Painting Party – Deb Ryland will lead the children in a painting project on a small canvas on Sunday, May 5th – 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM. There is no cost but please sign up in the narthex. Provide an old shirt that can be worn over clothing. Last day to sign up is today – April 28th.

Mulching – We will be mulching around the church and north parking lot, Friday, May 3rd at 1 PM. Rain date will be Saturday, May 4th at 9 AM. Please sign up on sheet in the narthex.

Congregational Meeting – There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, May 12, 2024, immediately after our church service. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce a proposed change in the number of members to our consistory. A second meeting to vote on this proposal will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2024, after our morning service. Both of these meetings should be brief and all members are encouraged to attend.

May 19, 2024 – Pentecost and Confirmation Service – Christian Ed Committee will be hosting a luncheon after the worship service in Fellowship Hall. This luncheon will be catered by Angelo's.

Graduates – Any members who have children or grandchildren that are graduating from High School or College, please give their information to the office.

Address Changes for Members:

Temporary – Shirley Shaak – 401 King Rail Court,
Middletown, DE 19709

Heather Whorley – 8231 Elizabethtown Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Phone – 717-525-2305

Save the Dates:

May 5 Kid's Painting Party
May 19 Confirmation Service and Luncheon
May 31-June 2 – Youth Spring Retreat
June 2 Worship and Communion Service – 10 AM
June 2 – 16 – Sale of Dinunzio Sub Coupons
June 22 Women's Painting Party – 9 AM – 12 PM
(Includes Breakfast)

Conference Call information:

Dial (215) 383-1625 Enter conference code: 569284
Press* when asked for your attendee pin

