

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – May 16, 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter – Join us on You Tube!**

Opening Music

“Allegretto in E-flat major”

by F. Walczyński

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

In the name of God,
**who created us,
and who holds us
and the whole world in holy hands**
In the name of the Son
**who came into the world,
and made us new people.**
In the name of the Holy Spirit
**who fills us with eternal life,
who joins us with all people of faith,
we come to offer our thanks and praise.**
Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

**Almighty God, mother of mercy, father of grace:
You call us to one baptism,
and we choose our own way.
You promise us the abundance of all creation,
and in our greed, and in our envy,
the world goes without.
You promise us the waters of peace and justice,
and in our violence, and in our discord,
the world goes thirsty.
Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again, we pray,
by power of your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

God creates in us clean hearts and gives us a new and right spirit.

In the grace of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven.

In the life and spirit of Jesus, we are forgiven and set free.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Scripture

Acts 10:1–17

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. ²He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. ³One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius.' ⁴He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' He answered, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; ⁶he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.' ⁷When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, ⁸and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. ¹²In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ¹⁴But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.' ¹⁵The voice said to him again, a second time, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁶This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate.

Acts 10:34–36, 44–48

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,⁴⁶ for 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?’⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the witness to God’s word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Eeeew, part two

Rev. Mary Austin

We Respond to God’s Grace

Sacrament of Baptism

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Hear also these words from Holy Scripture:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

By water and the Holy Spirit,

we are made members of the church,

the body of Christ, and joined to

Christ’s ministry of love, peace, and justice.

Let us remember with joy our own baptism,

as we celebrate this sacrament.

Presentation of the Candidate

Jaden Metia Numatekpo

Questions for the Parents, Sponsors and Congregation

For the congregation:

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Jaden by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church? Do we? **We do.**

The Apostles' Creed [*together*]

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Baptism and Welcome

Jaden has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.

The people respond, saying: **With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.**

Music for Reflection

"Goodness Is Stronger than Evil"

Glory to God #750

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Depart for Service

Announcements and Passing the Peace

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

Commission & Benediction

Closing Music

“This Little Light of Mine”

Participating in the service:

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families, Children’s Message

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

Rev. Mary Austin