



MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
300 East Simpson Street
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055-6596
717-697-0351 • www.mechpresby.org
May 2, 2021 • 5th Sunday of Easter • 10am

Deborah

Prepare me, Oh God, for the weighty tasks I must perform. Amen.



I think the important thing about my appointment is not that I will decide cases as a woman, but that I am a woman who will get to decide cases.

~ Sandra Day O'Connor ~

Prelude

Christ the Redeemer

Tom Birchwood

Welcome & Concerns of the Church

Faces of Mission

Introit #243

Be Not Afraid

BE NOT AFRAID

*Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!*

Opening Prayer

Hymn #246 vv. 1, 2 & 3

Christ is Alive

TRURO

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.*

*In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.*

We Love to Tell the Story

Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints, D. Akers

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

The story of God for the people of God... **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson

Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

The story of God for the people of God... **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*Faces of Our Faith
Deborah*

Reverend Kathryn Z. Johnston

Hymn #481

I Believe in God the Father

GENEVAN 42

*I believe in God the Father, merciful and mighty Lord,
maker of the earth and heavens, whom we worship and adore;
and in Jesus Christ the son, Only Savior, sovereign one,
by the Holy Spirit given, born of Mary, blessed virgin.*

*Under Pilate, Jesus suffered, faithful to his final breath.
He was crucified and buried, and descended into death.
From the grave he did arise; he ascended through the skies;
now enthroned with God in heaven, he will judge the dead and living.*

*I believe in God the Spirit, and the church in every place;
saints in glorious communion, all forgiven, full of grace;
Flesh and blood will live again; life in Christ will never end.
Holy Spirit, Son and Father: I will praise your name forever.*

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

In your mercy Lord... **hear our prayer**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

Life in Christ

Todd Kendall

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn #246 vv. 4 & 5

Christ is Alive

TRURO

*Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

Charge & Benediction

Pastors: Mark Allio & Kathryn Johnston

Liturgist: Missy Rulapaugh, Cathay Snyder

Organist: Mark McKeever

On May 1, 2017, Mark McKeever was employed by Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church. Please join the Church Staff Committee in congratulating him and extending its thanks and appreciation for his service to MPC with special appreciation for his artistry that enhances and enriches worship.

On April 26, 2021 the Session approved these recommendations from the COVID-19 Task Force:

- **Indoor, in-person worship, including small funerals, will resume May 23, 2021.**
- **Indoor, in-person meetings will resume May 24, 2021.**

Worship Schedule

May 23—8:15 indoor (streamed online)

1:00pm outdoor in parking lot (streamed online) - Confirmation Class joins

There will only be one indoor service at 8:15 because staff and volunteers are committed to the Sunday School classes that are still meeting online that day.

May 30—8:15 & 11am indoor (streamed online)

No Outdoor Service

June 6—8:15 & 11am indoor (streamed online)

Celebration of Pastor Mark and Family in person at 9:30am

No Outdoor Service

June 13—8:15 & 11am indoor (streamed online)

No Outdoor Service

We will communicate the rest of the summer worship schedule once we get a better idea of how many people are comfortable attending indoor, how the livestreaming is going, and if we need to add an Outdoor Service option back in. Thank you for your patience as we continue to discern what is the Next Right Thing.

Ministers

All members of the congregation

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.....	Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston	kjohnston@mechpresby.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. Mark A. Allio	mallio@mechpresby.org
Director of Music	Mark McKeever	mmckeever@mechpresby.org
Christian Education Director	Cathay Snyder	csnyder@mechpresby.org
Church Administrator.....	Angela Stevens.....	astevens@mechpresby.org
Playful Beginnings Director.....	Karen P. Taylor.....	playfulbeginnings.mpc@gmail.com

Session:

Class of 2021 – Rich Blessing, Katie Chase, David Cox, Courtney Gray, Cindy Gorski, Lorrie Weber, Tim Wonder

Class of 2022 – Ed Boggs, Jim Honafius, Ted Foor, Nickie Shaddock, Rick Whitcomb

Class of 2023 – Patti Hinkson, Scott Rogers, Kelli Scurfield, Jenn Thomson, Phil Van Zile

Deacons:

Class of 2021 – Pat Heintzleman, Marybeth Hummel, Judy Klebe, Cathy Petko, Jan Whitcomb, Carol Winston

Class of 2022 – Laura Bricker, Sue Karakantas, Mary Love, Joanne Neimer, Keni Melphis, Tracy Shosh

Class of 2023 – Heather Barto, Jan Burrows, Jan Daft, Mike Daft, Nat League, Amy Zullo