

Ocean Heights

Presbyterian Church



www.ohchurch.org



A More Light Presbyterian Congregation joyfully welcoming people from all walks of life, acknowledging the differences of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disabilities. We celebrate all people as children of God.

3rd Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD CALLS US TO GATHER

PRELUDE Morning Has Broken by Larry Shackley

CALL TO WORSHIP (STAND)

Liturgist: God of peace and justice,

All: make your presence known to us today.

Liturgist: God of blessing and well-being,

All: bring your healing and wholeness as we gather today.

Liturgist: Come and fill our hearts with your peace,

All: that we might be instruments of Christ's peace.

HYMN 248 (STAND) Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! by Brian Wren

JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION AND HEALING

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (UNISON)

All: But that's only the beginning. Who knows what we shall become?

Pastor: Let us consider how Jesus was revealed among us,

All: and pray we grow more fully into the likeness of Christ.

Pastor: Jesus embodied the unconditional love of God.

All: May we become more like Jesus.

Pastor: Jesus drew near to those living on the margins and excluded.

All: May we become more like Jesus.

Pastor: Jesus brought healing and wholeness to those in need.

All: May we become more like Jesus.

Hymn 248: In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

Prayer of Reconciliation: Adapted from Seasons of the Spirit Online.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN 774 (Sing Twice)

There is Now a New Creation

**There is now a new creation, through the grace of Jesus Christ,
Peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.**

WORDS OF RECONCILIATION

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (STAND)

HYMN 250 (STAND)

In the Bulb There is a Flower

by Natalie Sleeth

Hymn 250: The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T.S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning." Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

GOD'S WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:36-48

While they were still talking about this, Jesus actually stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." In their panic and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Why are you disturbed? Why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and my feet; it is I, really. Touch me and see – a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones as I do." After saying this, Jesus showed them his wounds. They were still incredulous for sheer joy and wonder, so Jesus said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" After being given a piece of cooked fish, the savior ate in their presence. Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the psalms had to be fulfilled." Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, "That is why the scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah's name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all of this."

SMALL TALK

READING OF SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:1-3

See what love Abba God has lavished on us in letting us be called God's children! Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized God. My dear friends, now we are God's children, but it has not been revealed what we are to become in the future. We know that when it comes to light, we will be like God, for we will see God as God really is. All who keep this hope keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

SERMON

All God's Children Gotta Place in the Choir Rev. John Nurnberger

Responding to God's Word

SPEAKING OUR COMMITMENTS

Liturgist: By the grace of God, the people of Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church, a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), gather for worship and ministry in the name of Christ.

All: **We joyfully welcome people from all walks of life, acknowledging the differences of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and disabilities. We celebrate all people as children of God.**

Liturgist: We strive to be the body of Christ in the world, working for peace and justice for all persons. We join with people of good faith to address the threats of climate change and the degradation of God's good creation. As a progressive Christian congregation,

All: we endeavor to understand and practice the faith we have from scripture, informed by the wisdom of science and the theological and cultural diversity of the world's people.

Liturgist: We give thanks to God for the community we share in worship and ministry for the sake of a world where love is more possible.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF JESUS

Holy Love in heaven, who is with us, blessed be your name.
May your way of loving be a reality here on earth.
Let us share our bread with those who hunger.
Let us learn to forgive as well as receive forgiveness.
Help us through times of temptation.
Lead us to holy innocence, beyond the evil of our day.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Love Never Ends

adapted from I Cor. 13

Elizabeth Bolk

DOXOLOGY (STAND)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (STAND)

HYMN 295 (STAND)

Go to the World!

by Sylvia G. Dunstan

BENEDICTION

**Sidenote for
Prayer of Jesus:**
*written by Parker
Palmer and
Manny Santiago*

Hymn 295:
*Based on Christ's
great commission
(Matthew 28:19-
20), this text was
written for a
Convocation of
Emmanuel
College in
Toronto, the
largest
theological
school of the
United Church of
Canada, a
denomination
formed by the
union of
Methodists,
Congregationalist
s, and
Presbyterians.*



This week's sanctuary flowers were
donated by Lorene Gilman the
celebration of Bruce and Joan Gilman.

Session

Class of 2024

Art Farnum
Betsy Phillips
Carol Petters

Class of 2025

Sharon Eaton
Walter East
Dianna Lease

Class of 2026

Brenda Brown
Lorene Gilman
David Prescott



Don't be a drag -- reuse that bag!



Many of us are drowning in reusable bags that retailers sell or give to customers as a greener alternative to single-use plastic. These bags are creating environmental problems. Customers complain of a glut of reusable, heavy-duty bags that they don't know what to do with.

Starting April 14th, Ocean Heights will be collecting your excess clean, gently used, reusable bags to be used in food distribution programs in our community. A collection box will be placed in the church. Please don't buy new bags for this effort! The idea is to pass along excess bags that are no longer needed from church members, friends, and neighbors.

For Earth Day, we'll have a fun upcycling activity after church on April 21st. Know what else piles up around the house besides bags? T-shirts! Why not turn them into bags? With a few simple snips and one straight seam, we'll make old shirts into washable, stretchy, re-usable bags. Earth Care will walk you through the project step-by-step. This activity is suitable for all ages. Bring your own shirt(s) on April 21st and/or donate shirts for others to convert to bags. A collection box will be placed in the church starting April 14th. Upcycling reduces trash *and* the need to buy new - a true win-win.



Check the HUB for information on the AIM Angel Tree and the Ladies Brunch coming soon.

MONTH AT A GLANCE

- 4/14 **Worship 10am, Adult Ed & Bag Collection**
- 4/16 **Bible Study 10am**
- 4/21 **Worship 10am & Earth Day Activities & New Members Class**
- 4/23 **Heart & Soul 10am**
- 4/25 **Bible Study 6pm**
- 4/28 **Worship 10am & Adult Ed**
- 5/5 **Worship, Communion and EE Sale**
- 5/11 **Woman's Brunch for AIM**
- 5/12 **Worship 10am**

The Lenten Hearts of Love Project is now being displayed in the narthex and the sanctuary.



Thank you to this week's liturgist:
Sharon Eaton

Clerk of Session – Betsy Phillips
President of the Board of Trustees –
Lorene Gilman
Director of Music – Bob Helsabeck
Pianist – Heera Ghorashi
Office Administrator – Alison Walter

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