

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024, 10:00am



Harold Copping, *Lydia of Thyatira* (1927)



GREENVILLE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Welcome to Greenville Community Church! We're glad you've joined us. We are an inclusive family of faith that celebrates diversity, curiosity, service and hospitality.

Today is the fifth Sunday after Easter. The liturgical color for today is white, symbolizing the brightness of Christ and the dawn of a new day.

Men's and women's restrooms are located downstairs. They can be accessed by the stairs in the narthex (the entryway in the back of the church).

An all-gender accessible restroom is located in the educational/administrative wing near Hessler Hall. Those who are not comfortable with stairs may enter this part of the building through the office entrance on the front driveway facing Ardsley Rd.

If you are visiting with us, we extend a special greeting to you. Please fill out the visitor form in the narthex so we can get to know you. Join us for coffee after worship in Hessler Hall.

Please note our services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel, which can be accessed through our website homepage, www.greenvillechurch.org. Each service is archived, so you can watch them at your leisure.



Thank you for your gifts and offerings. Every gift, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in our ability to share God's love with those around us. Offering envelopes are available in the pew racks; you may also donate electronically through the QR code on the left. NOTE: You may join our church Wifi network "Sanctuary" with the password: 4churchonly

ORDER OF SERVICE

*As the prelude begins, we invite you to enter a time of quiet reflection to prepare for worship.
Please silence all electronic devices.*

PRELUDE Clara Schumann piece

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

When we walk along the roads of life:

Christ is there among us.

When our route leads to the bustling city:

Christ is there among us.

When we venture down a country path:

Christ is there among us.

Alone or with the crowds, with family, friend or stranger:

Chris is there among us. Let us worship God!

*HYMN #269 *You have Come Down to the Lakeshore* Sing! A New Creation

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

we confess that even as we celebrate the resurrection,

we neglect your commandment to love one another.

We pass by those in need, fail to care for your creation,

and distract ourselves with selfish pursuits.

Forgive us for our shortcomings.

Renew our hearts and minds, and make us more like Christ—

more compassionate, more forgiving, more loving, more eager to serve.

In the name of the Risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

(Silent confession and prayer.)

PETITION #574 **“Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us”** *Hymns, Psalms, Spiritual Songs*
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news...

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE:

HYMN #229

"From All That Dwell Below the Skies," v. 1

Hymns, Psalms, Spiritual Songs

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land and tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

You are God's precious child. God loves you!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 43:19-21

God, we thank you for your Word.

The story of your love.

ANTHEM

"Astonishing"

from Little Women

Who is he?

Who is he with his marry me?

With his ring and his marry me,
the nerve, the gull.

This is not,

Not what was meant to be.

How could he ruin it all
With those two words?

I thought I knew him

Thought that he knew me

When did it change?

What did I miss?

A kiss,

When I thought all along,

That we were meant to find frontiers,

How could I be so wrong?

And I need,
How I need my sisters here
If I can't share my dreams
What were they for?

I thought our promise
That we would never change and never part.
I thought together,
We'd amaze the world.
How can I live my dreams or even start when everything has come apart.

I thought home was all I'd ever want
My attic all I'd ever need.
Now nothing feels the way it was before
And I don't know how to proceed.
I only know I'm meant for something more
I've got to know if I can be
Astonishing

There's a life
That I am meant to lead
A life like nothing I have known
I can feel it
And it's far from here
I've got to find it on my own

Even now I feel it's heat upon my skin.
A life of passion that pulls me from within,
A life that I am making to begin.
There must be somewhere I can be
Astonishing
Astonishing

I'll find my way
I'll find it far away
I'll find it in unexpected and unknown
I'll find my life in my own way
Today

Here I go
And there's no turning back

My great adventure has begun
I may be small
But I've got giant plans
To shine as greatly as the sun

I will blaze until I find my time and place
I will be fearless,
Surrendering modesty and grace
I will not disappear without a trace
I'll shout and start a riot
Be anything but quiet
Christopher Columbus
I'll be Astonishing
Astonishing
Astonishing

At Last

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 16:9-20

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

SERMON Blessed are the Trailblazers: *The Spirit moves when Hearts are Open*

Rev. Elizabeth Testa

COMMUNION: #250

Sing! A New Creation

*The Lord's Table is open to all. Please come forward, receive bread
and dip it in one of the cups—either wine or grape juice.
Signal to an usher if you would like to be served in your seat.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S 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:

The Lord's My Shepherd (Brother James's Air)

Psalm 23

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie

In pastures green; He leadeth me

The quiet waters by.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,

the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;

And me to walk doth make

Within the paths of blessedness,

Ee'n for His own Name's sake.

Within the paths of blessedness,

Ee'n for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I pass through shadowed vale,

Yet will I fear no ill;

For thou art with me; and thy rod

And staff me comfort still.

Thy rod and staff they comfort still

My table thou hast furnished

In presence of my foes;

My head with oil thou dost anoint,

And my cup overflows.

My head thou dost with oil anoint,

And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my days

Will surely follow me;

And in my father's heart always

My dwelling place shall be.

And in my heart forevermore,

thy dwelling place shall be.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, all creatures here below,

Praise God above, you heavenly host

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, giver of all good things, accept these gifts and with them our lives, to be used in your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN #305 *Come Sing O Church, In Joy* *Hymns, Psalms, Spiritual Songs*

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL

RESPONSE #106 **“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”** v. 1 *Hymns, Psalms, Spiritual Songs*

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.
Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.**

*Please be seated until the conclusion of the postlude.
Use this time for quiet contemplation.*

POSTLUDE Het Wilhelmus arr. Jim Paterson

*Following worship, join us for coffee hour downstairs in Hessler Hall.
We are grateful to Sonja Powell and Ratna Devarpalli for preparing refreshments today.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Elizabeth Testa
David Shenton, *piano & organ*
Erin Shields, soprano
Helen Yun and Mary Perikala, *ushers*
Dyan Atkins, reader

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sam & Jen Clover, as he recovers from double knee replacement; **Nicola Powell**, daughter of Sonia Powell, recovering from a heart attack; **George McKinnis** on the loss of his wife, Marlene; **a mother and her son** as he faces various challenges; **Keith Clonan**, godson of Ellen Ryan, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; **Rochford**, friend of Sharon; **Kevin Backles**, friend of Yasmin Thomas, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer; **Denise Colon**, niece of Rosa Morett, fighting cancer; **Steven Sathuluri**, nephew of Mary Perikala; **Debbie**, sister of Teresa Krajco, battling stage 4 cancer; **Beth Gitau**; **Lee Lajoi**; **Bruce Purse**; **Lily Woo**, waiting for another kidney; **Karen Quinn**; **Fred Brandi**; **Cayden**, 12, grandson of Sharon Jacquet, diagnosed with osteosarcoma.

Prayer is an important part of this faith community. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please contact Pastor Sam. Names can be added to the public prayer list or be held in confidence. Names will be listed in the bulletin for two months, unless requested otherwise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer for Mt. Vernon Soup Kitchen—Mon., May 6. Prepare and/or help serve meals with our friends at First Reformed Church of Mt. Vernon. Food may be dropped off at the church following worship today, or by 2:00pm on May 6. We will meet at the church in Mt. Vernon at 3:30pm: 135 S. 6th Ave., Mt. Vernon.

Lecture: Welcoming and Supporting New Refugees in Our Community—*Mon., May 13, 2:00pm*, Church of St. James the Less, 10 Church La., Scarsdale. The Scarsdale-Hartsdale Women's Interfaith Council are hosting this lecture with Kathie O'Callaghan of the nonprofit Hearts & Homes for Refugees. All welcome; light refreshments follow. For info, contact Ruth Boser (ruthboser@gmail.com; 914-671-0666) or Alison Rose (aprilalisonrose@gmail.com; 914-723-7617).

Calling all Golfers or Golfer Wannabes – Monday, June 3rd

David Shenton, Andrew Onslow, and Richard Pink are organizing a GCC Fellowship Golf Outing. For planning and reservation purposes we need to know how many have an interest. This outing will be open to GCC members and friends, your friends, and to parents of the Greenville Church Nursery School. We plan to hold the outing at Maple Moor Golf Course, 1128 North Street, White Plains on Monday June 3rd. It will be a morning outing followed by a barbeque luncheon on the patio (weather permitting). The fees for golf, carts, and lunch is expected to be a very reasonable \$100 per person. If interested, please contact one of us by April 30th.

David.....email: das_shenton@yahoo.com; text: 917-647-7288

Andrew...email: andrew.c.onslow@gmail.com; text: 929-429-0156

Richard...email: richardpink@verizon.net; text : 917-251-7465

Clothing Donation Shed. We accept clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, towels, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed animals for distribution to communities in need. If you would like to donate these items, please place items in good condition in bags, and drop them in the shed in the back parking lot. All donations are tax deductible.

We are accepting donations for the food pantry. If you have spare canned goods or boxes of cereal, consider donating them to our partner, the Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry of White Plains. A basket is located in the Narthex; food will be transported from GCC regularly.

Facebook and Instagram Pages. Have you checked out our Facebook and Instagram pages? We regularly post photos, thoughts and information about upcoming events. Please take a look and “like” and “follow” us!



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270 Ardsley Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583
Church Office: 914-723-1266
Greenville Church Nursery School: 914-723-1262
www.GreenvilleChurch.org
Email us at info@greenvillechurch.org



Rev. Samuel T. Clover, *Senior Minister*
David A. Shenton, *Director of Music*
Liz Follen, *Church Administrator*
Kristen O'Leary, *Faith Formation Coordinator*
Irma Flores-Medina, *Buildings and Grounds Overseer*

Consistory

Deacons

Dyan Atkins – Chair, Fellowship Committee
Gary Beane – Chair, Education Committee
Stephen Morton
Yasmin Thomas

Elders

Karie Brown – Chair, Mission Committee
Richard Laudenschach – Vice President, Acting Clerk
Richard Pink
Aad Zeeuw – Chair, Facilities Committee
Dotti Han, Treasurer (ex-officio)