

# McLeod Memorial Presbyterian Church

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

*Be glad and rejoice, for in our joy, we reveal God's glory and Christ's loving presence.  
(based on 1 Peter 4, Luke 24)*

## **Call to worship** (based on Luke 24)

Rejoice and sing to God. We sing of the Risen Christ. Clap your hands and shout with joy. We rejoice in the living God. Celebrate this day. We celebrate with the Spirit who calls us here.

## **Prayer of confession**

Heavenly Christ, come down from on high to be with us, even in our darkest hours. As you share in our suffering, share your love in the mist of our shortcomings and our failings. Raise us to new heights with your forgiveness and mercy, that we may glorify you in all that we say and in all that we do. Enter into our sorrows with grace and hope, that we might be overwhelmed with joy. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

## **Assurance of pardon** (based on John 14)

The Risen Christ is here, restoring, empowering, and strengthening us. WE are established as God's beloved children, forgiven and made new in Christ's love.

## **Opening Hymn**

#482

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

## **Scripture reading**

**Acts 1:1-11**

**Rev. Anthony Gilbert**  
**"An Influential Christian"**

## **Affirmation of faith** (The Apostles' Creed - Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only 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 hell; 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.

## **Closing Hymn**

#151

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

## **Charge and benediction** (from John 17, Luke 24)

Joy to the world! The Lord has come to earth. Joy to the World! Christ has risen from death itself. Joy to the world! Christ's glory is ours to share.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ Rev. Anthony Gilbert and the Session, pray that our members are well and have been enjoying the weekly sermons, bulletins and hymns from the church website or the Wednesday inspirational post from Joan FitzGerald, Music Ministry Director, on Face book. The Session did meet this past Monday, May 11, 2020. The Elders will begin the planning stage of coordinating and implementing discussion on how our church gatherings will function to help slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 among members and the community. Our ministry will still provide alternative spiritual care for those who cannot attend worship or other functions due to the new guidelines being set as each phase of "Opening Up America Again" begins. All church gatherings will follow the White House, CDC, The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and The Presbytery of Tampa Bay guidelines or recommendations. At this time worship service is still under the Phase One guidelines for our members to continue to shelter in place. The Elders are understanding and reading during Phase Two, organized youth activities such as Armored youth meetings, daycare and camps will reopen. Then during Phase Three, visits to senior care facilities, hospitals, large venues, movie theaters, sporting venues and places of worship will be able to operate under limited physical distancing protocols. Suggested preparations for the churches to consider before worshipping resumes are: providing hand sanitizer and dispensers; sanitizing pews, cushions, pencils, envelopes and hymnals after each use or gathering; consider the sanctuaries ventilation; no passing of the offering and consider offertory boxes located at the entrance of the Narthex; no passing of Communion and the idea of a pre-filled communion cup-wafer and juice sets called Fellowship Cups for individuals to pick up in the Narthex; distribution of single use bulletins; staging and spacing for singing of the choir; congregational spacing for hymnal singing during worship; monitors to display hymns, announcements or bulletins; providing face coverings; temperature checks; etc. There will be many areas that need to be looked at, discussed and prepared before worship resumes. Each phase of the guidelines address aspects of daily life for which restrictions remain that needs to be considered and followed. The Sessions largest concern is how we will be able to meet the needs of our elderly and individuals with serious underlying health conditions and those whose immune system is compromised. The Sessions plans will move slowly and cautiously considering: Will our actions be beneficial? Will our action be constructive? Will our action be for the good of others beyond ourselves? As the elders reach this decision, for our congregation to meet in worship they will reflect on a statement from Bill Wildhack's, Stated Clerk of The Presbytery of Tampa Bay, letter dated May 13, 2020 to the churches. In reaching this decision to reopening our churches, "do we truly believe that they have found and represented the will of Christ more than simply reflecting the will of the people."
- ❖ ARMORED YOUTH: May 17th, 5:30-6:30pm- Zoom Game meeting. The youth ministry will still continue to meet by Zoom till the end of May unless Phase Two of "Opening Up America Again" will open up for us to plan a physical gathering with the possibility of no more than 10 in the group and following social distancing. Jennifer Hallberg, youth leader will contact the middle and high school families as soon as those plans or summer plans are decided.
- ❖ BIBLE STUDY: If you are interested to join a group that is meeting with Rev. Anthony weekly each Thursday at 3:30 pm. Let Anthony know and you will receive a email Zoom invitation from Jayne Bates that has the link to join.

Hymn #145: "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"

Words: Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1865

Music: Arthur Henry Messiter, 1883

Hymn #403: "What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

Words: Josephy Scriven, c. 1855

Music: Charles Crozat Converse, 1868