



Service for the Lord's Day

7th Sunday of Easter – Ascension of the Lord – Recognition of Graduates
May 21, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Please SILENCE ALL Personal Electronic Devices Before Worship.

We Gather as God's People

Welcome to our worship service. Take a moment to quiet yourself as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your questions, and your story wherever you are on your journey in life. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence.

The Gathering Music “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” arr. James Koerts

The Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude “Here I Am, Lord” arr. Jane Holstein

The Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Lord be with you.

***Many:* And also with you.**

One: Children of God, what does the Lord requires of us.

***Many:* To leave our empty talk and pride behind. We must walk the walk.**

One: In our worship, let us prepare to step out in faith, even into troubled waters.

***Many:* Only God knows where we might need to go.**

One: Don't be afraid.

***Many:* Jesus will guide our steps along the way,**

One: Teaching us to walk humbly,

***Many:* To love boldly,**

One: To serve God with body, soul, mind, and strength.

***Many:* With humility and courage let us follow where the Spirit leads us.**

The Opening Hymn *PH* # 411 “Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirits call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.
Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

The Opening Prayer [Responsive]

One: Let us pray... Holy One, where we are, where others are.

Many: You are also present.

One: As we gather. as others gather, in other places near and far,

Many: may we always feel you present and constant.

One: Holy One in so many places in our world, people are grieving, praying, calling on you,

Many: hear those voices, our voices, their cries, our cries, we pray.

One: And strengthen, comfort, challenge, guide and direct us wherever our path in life leads us, this day, and every day, we pray,

Many: Amen.

Two+ *(A new way to share the peace of Christ and greet one another.)*

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

Question: "What year and from which high school did you graduate?"

We Listen for God's Word

The Prayer for Illumination [Responsive]

One: Let us pray... O God, you draw us into your community of love with people across the ages and around the world.

**Many: By the same Spirit that binds us together speak to us that what we read and ponder may enliven us and stretch us to trust and follow you; through Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

The Scripture

Jeremiah 25:27-28

"...This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'Drink, get drunk and vomit, and fall to rise no more...But if they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink, tell them, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: You must drink it.'" (NIV)

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us,

Many: We give thanks to God!

The Reflection

Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

We Respond to God's Love

The Musical Reflection “Seek Ye First”

The Recognition and Blessing of Our 2023 Graduate [Responsive]

Pastor: Friends, today we celebrate with Roman who is taking another step in his faith journey, as part of the Class of 2023 from Cambridge High School. We invite you and your parents to please come forward at this time.

In Micah 6:8, we hear these words of the prophet: “God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”

In John 13:34, Jesus said to his disciples: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

As your child, Roman, now reaches this new milestone in his life and faith journey, we ask you to join him and us in reaffirming our shared calling to love God and our neighbor as ourselves; to do justice and show compassion and kindness, and to reflect the love of Christ in all we say and do.

As the Parents of Roman, will you continue to live into this calling, continuing to offer your love and support of your child throughout his transition from high school to college?

Parents: We will with God's help.

Pastor: Will we as the congregation of OCPC, continue to pray for and support Roman and his parents, and will we continue to show them the Light of Christ as we work for justice and peace in our ministry in the church and larger community?

Congregation: We will with God's help.

Pastor: Roman: As you are about to graduate, do you intend to continue in your relationship with God, being open to discover the Christ in your midst while reflecting Christ's love, grace, compassion and peace in your new adventures at college, in the new community where you will dwell and with the new people you will live with.

Graduate: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

Pastor: Let us pray: Creating One in whose sacred image all humanity was created, we ask your blessing on this young adults, Roman, as he enters a new period in his faith and life. Bless him on his journey and watch over him. Guide him along your Way. Help him to feel your presence wherever he finds himself in his life. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.

As a gift to you, we, your church family, offer Roman to wrap your child in the blanket.

Graduate, there was a day when your parents held you in their arms and rocked you to sleep. They cuddled you in a blanket to keep you warm, safe and comforted. Soon you will be launching a new life away from the safety and security of your home and family. As you go out into the world, may this blanket be a reminder of your parents' love, your church's love, and God's love for you. May it help you remember you are never alone.

Parents: We come this day before God to bless you and thank our creator for the gift you have been to us. You have given our lives a deeper meaning and a deeper calling. As parents, we have come to understand more deeply the nature of God's love, of joy, of forgiveness. We thank God today for the gift that you have been to our lives. Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will always be a part of us. We bless you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. May this blanket remind you of our love, the warmth of church, and the power of the Holy Spirit. When you wrap yourself in this blanket may you remember that God is always with you.

Graduate to Parents: You have given of your heart and of your home. You have loved and cared for me, even when it was difficult. I bless you this day for the sacrifice you made to give me life. I thank God this day for the power and selflessness of your love. I honor you for your courage, your patience, your wisdom, and your love. Wherever I go, your love, example, and faith will continue to guide me. I thank God for blessing my life with you.

Graduate to the Congregation: I thank you for the many ways over the years you have shared your faith with me. I thank you for this blanket that will always remind me of my church home and the love of God in Christ you have shown me.

Congregation: Wherever you wander, no matter how dark the night, may the warmth of this blanket represent for you the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace with God's blessing and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Closing Hymn SF # 2051....."I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.**

**I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.**

**When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.**

**If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.**

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

Repeat verse 1

We Depart to Do God's Will

Offering of Our Tithes and Our Gifts to God

The Sending [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: May God who began this good work in you carry it through to completion, enabling you to use your talents to the fullest.

Many: **May God give you the grace to make wise choices and to be faithful to your commitments, always confident in the support of those who love you.**

One: May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you will live deep within your heart.

Many: **May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality, and peace.**

One: May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain into joy.

Many: **May God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.**

One: May your integrity be a gift to the world and may the Spirit of God be with you always.

ALL: Amen.

***Song of Dismissal** *PH* # 432 "Canto de Esperanza"

May the God of hope go with us every day, Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" arr. John Hughes



Our liturgy this morning is from: The Call to Worship ~ written by Mary Jo Bowman, Mount Solon, Virginia; The Opening Prayer ~ written by Julie and posted on RevGalBlogPals; The Sending ~ offered at Baccalaureate Mass at Xavier University by Fr. Michael Graham SJ.

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)

Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshment following worship today.

- Our musician today is Marian Korth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)

- Help us save “pig points.” For us to receive a rebate, please turn in your receipts from the Cambridge Piggly Wiggly in one of three ways: **1.** Place them in the brown bag in the narthex. **2.** Cheryl Stitz will do a porch pickup of any receipts that you may have. Call her at 608-695-1838 to make arrangements. **3.** Receipts can also be mailed to the church office. All funds received are used for mission projects.
The next deadline for receipts is Sunday, June 18.

WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:

PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 28 WORSHIP AT 10 AM – In-person worship continues this Sunday in the sanctuary. **Please wear something red for Pentecost.** We are still mindful of the presence of COVID along with the cold and flu. If you are not feeling well, we would encourage you to remain home and join us for worship on our Facebook Live-Stream. Masks are also available for those who would feel more comfortable wearing them for their own health and safety. We do encourage people to encourage people to get vaccinated and boosted. Thank you.

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Barbara Baker (Judy Pearson’s sister)
Charleen Janus
Jan & Nancy Kristiansen
Marilyn Schuster

Victims of the growing number of Mass Shootings and gun violence in our nation.

Those recovering from storm damage across the United States.

The family of Betty Mennenga (mother of Angie Williams), and other families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.



WISH LIST!

The Cambridge Food Pantry has been seeing a sharp increase in food insecurity among our neighbors, and like everywhere in America, the high cost of food and other household items is having an impact on our inventory.

With the growing number of neighbors in need and the low supply of food on our shelves, I am reaching out to ask for your help.

With the winter months ahead of us, the need will only increase, please consider helping your neighbors by donating to the food pantry.

The food pantry is currently seeking donations of: Soup (variety of canned soup), Corned Beef Hash, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, other canned meals and pastas, Crackers (Saltines, Ritz, etc.), Baked Beans, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Pancake Syrup, Shampoo and Conditioner, Men's and Women's Deodorant, Razors, Bath Soap, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste.

Monetary donations are always greatly appreciated!

For more information on how you can make a difference this holiday season, or to volunteer at the food pantry, please email: foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us or call Kerry at (608)423-8142.

The Cambridge Food Pantry website can be found at <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/>

Thank you for your continued generous support!

Kerry Marren, Community Activities Program, Cambridge Food Pantry Coordinator

Church Schedule

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Communion: First Sunday of each month

Pastoral Office Hours: Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Wednesday or by appointment

Business Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday

(Church hours are approved by Session and posted on church entry doors.)

Telephone/Fax: 608-423-3001

Email: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

Web: www.OCPChurch.com

Mailing Address: 313 E. Main St., Cambridge, WI 53523-9629



Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

SESSION (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2023: Randy Johnson.

Class of 2024: Mare Stewart, Mark Touhey

Class of 2025: Joe Leto, Melanie Rumpf

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Angie Williams

Business Manager: Ruth Poole

Pastor: Pastor Scott Marrese-Wheeler: (608) 417-0231 cell;

Pastor@OCPChurch.com Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Follow Rev. Scott on Twitter: @2revsScott

