



## Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

### Gathering

**Welcome and Ministry Announcements**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**\*Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #33

“Praise the Lord! God’s Glories Show”

**\*Call to Worship**

Worship Leader

Leader: We gather this day in joy and Christian fellowship,

**People: for we are the church of Jesus Christ!**

Leader: We pray for the Holy Spirit to be among us,

**People: opening our hearts and minds to the worship of God!**

**Gathering Prayer**

Toni Knieling

**Call to Confession**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**Prayer of Confession**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**People: Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you. We pursue success, realizing it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, knowing they are empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone.**

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! God is love, and God's love was disclosed to us in the sending of the divine Son into the world to bring us life.

**People: The divine Son, Jesus Christ, is the remedy for the forgiveness of our sins.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Word

**A Time for Children**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

\*please stand

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading**

1 John 4:7-21

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom

they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

“God is Love”

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**\*Middle Hymn**

“Desert Song”

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles’ Creed

**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.**

### **Prayers and Offering**

**Prayers of the People/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.**

### **Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings**

**Offertory Song**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**People: Gracious God, please accept these gifts and use them for the coming of your kingdom in this time and place. In gratitude for all we have and for your love for us, we pray with thanksgiving. Amen.**

### **Sending**

**\*Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #442

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

**Charge and Blessing**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

## Announcements

**Last Sunday of the Month Potluck April 28** - Our last Sunday of the month potluck is today after worship. Everyone is invited to attend this time for fellowship and food.

**Church Office Closed April 29** - The church office will be closed tomorrow. The office will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

**Guest Preacher May 5** - Next Sunday, May 5, we will welcome Rev. Robert Merrill as our guest preacher. Pastor Bob is a member of Savannah Presbytery. He and his wife Ginger moved to Saint Simons Island, GA upon his retirement from the Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church in New London, NH in September 2021. He was their pastor for 20 years. Prior to Kearsarge, Bob served PC(USA) churches in New Jersey, Kentucky, and Georgia since 1980.

**Bunko May 11** - The next Bunko night will be Saturday, May 11, at 6:00 p.m. No experience is needed and it is fun for all ages. The entrance fee is \$10 per person and includes dessert. All proceeds go to the church's building and grounds fund.

**Blood Drive May 12** - OneBlood will be holding a blood drive in the church parking lot on Sunday, May 12, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please register in advance by clicking [here](#) and using sponsor code 31712. All donors will receive a wellness checkup, a T-shirt, and a \$20.00 e-gift card.

**Pentecost Offering May 19** - Kirkwood participates in the special Pentecost Offering. Your gift to the Pentecost Offering helps support ministries that build a foundation of faith in children and young adults. Kirkwood retains 40% of the offerings received for our youth programs. Further information can be found [here](#) on the PCUSA website.

Ways to give:

- Special Pentecost Offering envelopes on the table in the back of the sanctuary
- Regular envelopes in the friendship pads - be sure to write "Pentecost Offering" and your amount on the front of the envelope.
- Contribute online through the giving link on Kirkwood's website found [here](#). Type in your amount in the box next to Special Offerings.

**Financial Giving** - You may place your offering in the offering plate, drop off a check at the office, put it in the mail, or use our online giving portal that can be accessed [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.



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