

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DANVILLE

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023 • 11:00 a.m.



Eleven-year-old Ksenia draws her story – how together, with her mother and brother, they lived for two weeks in the basement, under constant shelling from tanks and rockets.

GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

There Is A Spirit That Delights To Do No Evil

Ned Rorem

Welcome and Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

◆ Please rise in body or spirit. Join in reading or singing the parts of the service printed in **bold**.

◆ Opening Sentences

As we gather together, remember that we are not alone in our faith:

God is our Companion.

Though the way is not easy, we may suffer in righteousness,

God is our Comfort.

When anger fills our hearts, and grief crushes our spirits,

God is our Counselor.

And through it all, we are together,

for we are all children of God,

our Companion, our Comfort, and our Counselor.

◆ Hymn No. 756

O God of Every Nation

LLANGLOFFAN

The ritual of
confession and
assurance of God's
forgiveness is not a
time of judgment;
it is a time of grace.

It is not a time to
fear God; it is a time
to experience God's
unending love
through Jesus. It is a
time to take a load
off our shoulders so
that we might more
freely live.

◆ Call to Confession

◆ Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, your promise is forever true,
your care for us is sure.

We confess that we have often believed we
will have to take care of ourselves,
forgetting your promise and your call.

We look at the world,
and we choose fear rather than hope and love.

When it seems life is unraveling,
we look for ways to defend ourselves
and ensure our security and our desire,
rather than following your way.

Forgive us, Lord, and give us courage to hope—
and to act on hope—in the face of fear.

(time for silent prayer)

◆ Declaration of Forgiveness

◆ Sung Response No. 587

Alleluia!

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

◆ The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WORD

Time with Young Disciples

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 28

O. T. Pew Bible, p. 504

Anthem

Be Still And Know That I Am God

Donovan Klotzbeacher

New Testament Reading

Romans 8:18-25

N. T. Pew Bible, p. 158

Sermon

“Immediacy of Hope”

Robert Gamble

RESPONDING

◆ Hymn No. 686

God of Our Life

SANDON

◆ Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action, into vulnerability
and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the spirit for God’s new community of hope. Amen.

Recognition of Faith Formation Leaders and Musicians

Celebrations and Prayer Requests

Prayers of the People (concluding with the Lord’s Prayer)

Invitation to Offering

To give electronically,
text “PRESBYDAN” to
73256.

Please sign the
Friendship Pad during
the Musical Offering.

With a nod to Ascension Day last Thursday, the musical offering is a shape note hymn which first appeared in an 1814 hymnal published in Raleigh, NC. It was later included in the seminal first edition of *The Sacred Harp* (1844).

Just as the opening sentences function as the beginning of worship, the **charge and blessing** function as the beginning of our life lived as Christians in the world. God says to us, "Go!" and tells us how we should go.

Musical Offering

Soar Away

The Sacred Harp

*I want a sober mind, an all-sustaining eye, to see my God above,
and to the heavens fly.*

I'd soar away, above the sky; I'd fly and fly to see my God above.

*I want a Godly fear, a quick, discerning eye that looks to thee, my God,
and sees the tempters fly.*

I'd soar away, above the sky; I'd fly and fly to see my God above.

◆ Doxology No. 609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

◆ Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

SENDING

◆ Hymn No. 340

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

◆ Charge and Blessing

Closing Voluntary

Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1

Edward Elgar

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Leading worship:

Preacher Robert Gamble
 Liturgists Caroline Kelly and Joanie Lukins
 Musicians Bryan Lohr and The Sanctuary Choir

Assisting with worship:

Lead Ushers Sara Egge and Lynn Peck
 Acolyte Thad Strauch
 Bible Bearer MaryRives McCrosky
 A/V Engineers Jack and John Erwin