

Service of Worship
4th Sunday of Easter

April 17, 2016

10:30 AM

M. Scott Peck, 20th century

"A life of total dedication to the truth also means a life of willingness to be personally challenged."

GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Come Away to the Skies* Leavitt

THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Unnumbered multitudes gather in many places to praise the God whom Jesus revealed.

All: We are among the crowds responding in faith, hungering and thirsting for bread and living water.

One: In our tribulation and in our triumphs, we are drawn to the throne of grace.

All: Blessings and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power be to our God.

***HYMN # 558** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

***OPENING PRAYER** (*let us pray together . . .*)

O Shepherd of all who put their trust in you, restore our souls in this time of worship, for we are tired and needy. Comfort us in death's dark valley and take away our fears. Feed us and anoint us with your goodness and mercy in this time together. Amen.
(*silence*)

***WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE**

One: Friends, hear the good news! God's grace is all you need.

All: God grants salvation for all eternity and claims us day by day.

One: Let us walk as children of light, who rejoice in the Shepherd's loving guidance.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***MUSICAL RESPONSE**

ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

(Tune: CELTIC ALLELUIA, music: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981, harm. Christopher Walker, 1985. Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll & Christopher Walker, Publ. by OCP. OneLicense.net License # A-713031).

LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

PSALTER Psalm 23
(Response 2 will be used.)

Hymnal page 734

SCRIPTURE *Revelation 7: 9-17* NT pg 249

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

(Children through second grade may go to the nursery.)

***HYMN # 352** *Spirit Song*

SERMON *Before the Throne* Rev. Rehkugler

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

The Lord’s Prayer *(in unison)*

**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.**

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

OFFERING

Invitation

Choral Anthem *My Shepherd Is the Living God*

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719 alt.

Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.

***Doxology** *(page 48 in hymnal)* *tune: TALLIS’ CANON*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God triune, whom we adore.**

***Prayer of Dedication** *(let us pray together . . .)*
**Loving God, whose promises to us find their fulfillment
in Jesus Christ, help us to walk in the way of peace.
Accept the work of our hands and all the gifts we
dedicate to your service. Amen.**

GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

***HYMN # 701** *Shall We Gather at the River*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Toccata and Chorale* Callahan

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We welcome the Reverend **Nancy Rehkugler** as our guest preacher today. Nancy is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church where she served several congregations in Central New York. She retired from full time ministry in 2008 after serving the Fayetteville UMC, which is where she met Pastor Kathleen on the local Clergy Association. Nancy lives in Cortland with her husband Gerry. Nancy enjoys family gatherings, cooking, tennis, reading, and most any kind of writing, which most recently has involved lyrics to songs and anthems. Welcome Nancy!

Looking ahead: The Reverend **Rick Cowles**, former pastor of Homer Congregational Church will be joining Pastor Kathleen in leading our worship gathering on May 1. Plan to be with us to welcome Rick back.

Worship Service
Participants

Ushers and Greeters

Shirley Osterhoudt, Gwen Hayne, Nita Baldwin, Jim McKenna

Worship Leaders

Kathy McKenna

Liturgist

Lori Schmidt

Acolytes

Abby Elkins, Elijah Smith

Flowers

Jan Jeffers

in honor of Peter's birthday

Nursery Volunteers

Kevin Cappy, Molly Ulrich

Coffee Hour

Carol Agate

Attendance

April 10 - 79

Our giving 4/3/16:

Operations - \$1,366.50
Missions - \$215.25

Our giving 4/10/16:

Operations - \$4,658.50
Missions - \$380.00

Year-to-date financials will be in next month's newsletter.

Life in the Parish
Week of April 17

SUNDAY – April 17

9:15 am – Sunday School, The Well
10:30 am – Worship service
11:45 am – Dream Team (brainstorming) gathering
Noon-3:00 pm – Stephen Ministry meets

MONDAY – April 18

Newsletter Deadline

7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets

TUESDAY – April 19

2:00 pm – Bridge group
6:30 pm – Trustees meeting
7:00 pm – Homer Brass rehearsal

WEDNESDAY – April 20

5:30 pm – Worship & Music Committee meets
7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY – April 21

12:00 pm – Bible Study Group
5:00 pm – Transition Team meets

SATURDAY – April 22

9:00 am – Susquehanna Assoc. Spring Meeting and *A Sacred Conversation on Race*

SUNDAY – April 24

9:15 am – Sunday School, The Well
10:30 am – Worship service

NOTES AND NOTICES

Today, following the worship service, a gathering of those interested in continuing to explore ways to build a community participating in outreach will take place. This is a continuation of the HCC's **Dream Team (brainstorming) gatherings**. Bonnie Smith is the convener, all welcome.

The Senior High Sunday School class is hoping we can help support the HEBREWS #Feedthepeople **Coffee House**, scheduled for Saturday, April 30. There is wish list sign-up sheet in the Russell Fellowship Room for needed items and supplies, if you can help.

Plan to join others at HCC on **April 23** at 9:00 am – 4:00 PM for **“Sacred Conversations on Racism”** as part of the Susquehanna Association Meeting. See newsletter for more details.

Save the Date - **VBS and Chautauqua: An Adventure in Community!** - Homer Congregational Church and Homer Methodist Church are collaborating for Vacation Bible School (VBS) **August 1 - 7, 2016**. The format will be a little different this year! Programming for the entire family!

The Homer Methodist Food Pantry is in desperate need of these items: macaroni & cheese, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, and canned meats. Please bring items here or directly to the Methodist Church.

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