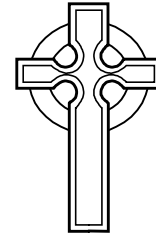


in-person, that builds community, affirms, and supports healing. Let us encourage one another as we play, share stories, listen, and find a way through, together! Connect instantly with The Purple Table by visiting the website: <https://the-purple-table.mn.co>.

“I Am...” Sermon Series: During the seven weeks of Eastertide, we are going to consider the resurrection through seven images given to us by Jesus. Sometimes, the best way to consider big, unwieldy ideas is to begin with small pieces. Jesus gives us seven images when he says “I am the...” In the coming weeks, we will take time to ponder each of these images: I am the resurrection, I am the door, I am the good shepherd, I am the bread, I am the vine, I am the road, and I am the light.

Prayer list

Please submit any prayer requests for today’s service to Michael before the worship service begins, the submitted requests will be included here next week.



First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio
www.fpcmiddletown.com

May 2, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Jesus Paid It All

Arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship

Psalm 80:8-19

You brought a vine out of Egypt.
You drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it;
then it planted its roots deep, filling the land.
The mountains were covered by its shade;
the mighty cedars were covered by its branches.
It sent its branches all the way to the sea;
its shoots went all the way to the Euphrates River.
So why have you now torn down its walls
so that all who come along can pluck its fruit,
so that any boar from the forest can tear it up,
so that the bugs can feed on it?

Please come back, God of heavenly forces!
Look down from heaven and perceive it!
Attend to this vine,
this root that you planted with your strong hand,
this son whom you secured as your very own.
It is burned with fire. It is chopped down.
They die at the rebuke coming from you.
Let your hand be with the one on your right side—
with the one whom you secured as your own—
then we will not turn away from you!
Revive us so that we can call on your name.
Restore us, LORD God of heavenly forces!
Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

Hymn #247

Now The Green Blade Rises
Fay Smillie, soprano

Noel Nouvelet

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hymnal #447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Circle Time for Young Disciples

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 15:1-8

Sermon

"I Am the True Vine"

Michael Isaacs

Solo

Farther On
Fay Smillie, soprano

Shape Note Hymn

Affirmation of Faith

1 John 4:16-21

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.

Welcome and Announcements

The Lord' Supper

The Lord's Prayer (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.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee Arr. Robert Hobby



Our Life Together...

Leading Worship today: Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist; Jim Harris, Sound Technician; Fay Smillie, Soloist; Mary Brehm, Barista.

Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available for use during the worship services. Please contact an usher for assistance.

COVID-19 Updates

- **Fellowship Hour is returning!** Fellowship Hour will be hosted outside and will be limited to coffee and lemonade. We will need "baristas" for each Sunday to pour drinks and limit the number of people handling the cups and drinks. Fellowship Hour is weather-permitting.
- A small **vocal ensemble** will sing on Pentecost, May 23. We hope to have additional small vocal ensembles following.
- **Fellowship Hall and Youth Room** are available for use, including for outside groups. We ask that a window be opened when these spaces are in use and that best practices regarding masking and social distancing be followed.
- Please **continue to be diligent** about masking and social distancing during in-person worship.

Announcements

Tuesday Morning Bible Study on May 4 at 10:00. We will be meeting by Zoom. This week we will be reading from Revelation 7.

The Purple Table is offering resources for you to share Godly Play stories at home! Email Lisa (lisa@fpcmiddletown.com) to sign up to borrow a story kit. Story videos are easily accessible online (<https://www.storiesofgodathome.com/events>).

Join the Purple Table online gathering via Zoom at 7:00 on May 10 for a time of fellowship and activities. (Zoom Meeting ID: 357 756 9746) The Purple Table is a pop-up welcome space, online and