

## The Fifth Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer and Sermon April 28, 2024

### New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ

1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041 www.newgoshucc.org † 215-679-2041 "Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people."

8:00 a.m. In person in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. In person in the Sanctuary and Livestream

#### Welcome to New Goshenhoppen Church

In the Gospel text this morning from John 15:1-7, it notes that God – the Vinedresser – prunes the branches on the vine. Pruning is required for all fruit bearing plants to keep the fruit full, sweet, and delicious.

Since 2003, Matthiasson Wines has been producing high-quality wines in the Napa region. In a recent newsletter, the Matthiasson's explained how they prune their vineyards:

Why do we prune? Because if the vine is not pruned it reverts very quickly to its wild nature, climbing everywhere with its long, sinewy trunk and tiny, scraggly bunches of uneven grapes. Every year we need to assess the growth of the vines, and decide whether to prune them back harder, or to let them grow a bit bigger, or return them to the same size and shape they were the year before.

Part of the pleasure of pruning is that it is pure craftsmanship, like woodworking or ceramics, a blending of form and vision, assessing the vine's growth and adjusting the pruning cuts to its individual differences. It's also a tactile relationship with nature, the living vines that could easily grow wild guided by our hands to line up in vineyard rows ready to bear another crop of wine grapes for our pleasure and nourishment.

If we prune correctly the vine will be balanced. That means it will grow just enough. If it grows too much, the resulting wines will be thin and simple. If it grows too little, the wine will be bitter and hard. The right amount of growth — what we call "balanced growth" — results in balanced wines that are delicious and show the terroir (environmental factors).

So, God prunes us to keep us balanced and able to bear fruit!

#### **Praise**

#### The \* invites you to rise in body or spirit.

Music of Gathering

**Be Thou My Vision** – arr. Paul Manz

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ – setting by John Behnke

Chiming of the Trinity

\*Hymn of Praise: No. 450

Be Thou My Vision

One License #A737537

\*Apostolic Greeting

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

#### \*Song of Praise

#### Glory to the God in the Highest



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



**Q** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



) | \_\_\_\_\_\_



You are seat- ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,





\*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . .

### We Hear and Respond

From a Letter of St. John

1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone

who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 80:7-18

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Revised Common Lectionary (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

- You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.
- The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.
- It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.
- Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
- The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.
- Turn again, O God of hosts!

  Look down from heaven, and see;
  have regard for this vine,
- the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.
- They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!
- But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!
- Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!
- Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
  Let your face shine, that we may be saved! <sup>2</sup>

\*Gospel Acclamation: No. 526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ - Linstead

\*The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

St. John 15:1-8

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Savior.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ps 80:7–19.

branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples<sup>3</sup>

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Ministry of Music [10:30 a.m.]

**This Little Light of Mine** - arr. Paul Jennings Traditional; 1998 Plank Road Publishing, Inc. Children's Choir

Homily

Dr. Williams – "PD"

## A Glass of Riesling, Please!

#### \*The Apostles' Creed

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old & New Testaments.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 15:1–8.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call to Confession

Corporate Confession

Jesus said: "I am the vine, you are the branches." Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious God, for Jesus Christ the true vine, with his roots eternally grounded in you. We rejoice that by grace we have been grafted into him, to be branches on a vine which bears the loveliest of all the fruits of earth. Yet we confess that all is not well with the way we live.

Please forgive us for the occasions when we have been the ones to introduce disease into the vine, preferring its contamination to the vigour of health.

Forgive us for neglecting to draw deeply on the sap of Life, for our tendency to wander instead of growing on the framework you provide, for being content, and sometimes even proud of, a few sparse or undersized fruits, for the apathy which lets us to go through some seasons without bearing any fruit.

Have mercy on us. Please do not lose patience or sever us completely from the true vine. Rather heal our diseases, discipline and train our wandering tendrils, prune our unfruitful branches and cut away our diseased ones. May we remain in Christ and he in us, through all the changing seasons of life. Let us delight in bearing the fruits of love which are our true purpose and joy. For your Name's sake. Amen!

#### A Word of Pardon

Jesus said: "If you reside in me, and my words reside in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you." Friends, we have asked for forgiveness and correction. It has been truly done for us. It is being done for us. And it will be done for us.

#### Thanks be to God!

Morning Prayer
Our Savior's Prayer [Sung – Front Cover of the Hymnal]

The Saints in Action

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card by scanning the QR code with your camera



\*Festival Doxology

Lasst Uns Erfruen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

# Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen!

\*Thanksgiving

\*Hymn of Dismissal: No. 703

**Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me** – St. Catherine

Following the Light of Christ into the World

# We go. . . To share the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people!

\*Sung Dismissal and Blessing

Now Unto Him Who Is Able

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling.

To make you stand in His presence blameless and with great joy.

To the only God our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Be the glory, and the majesty, dominion, and authority.

Both now and forevermore, Amen.

Give Him the glory, and the majesty, dominion, and authority.

Both now and forevermore, Amen!

\*Going Forth

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing - arr. Jane Holstein

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#### **APRIL 28, 2024**

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers
Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor
Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor
Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support
Kimberly Cornwell and Kelly Johannsen, Lay Ministers of Visitation
Beverly A. Benner, Director of Christian Education
Dan Tuck, Director of Music
Cynthia Hector, Children's Music Director
Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist
Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary
Office Phone: 215-679-2041 Email: office@newgoshucc.org
Visit us online at www.newgoshucc.org

**WELCOME** *VISITORS* ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship!

**WiFi PASSWORD:** Network: NewGoshGuest, password: **wearethechurch** 

**NEXT SUNDAY** please read John 15:9-17.

**UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS** are located on a table in the vestibule at the Fellowship Hall side entrance and in the narthex of the church building. There is no charge for the booklets.

**ORGAN DEDICATION CONCERT, TODAY at 3:00 p.m. featuring** *Maestro Hector Olivera.* Our new Allen Hybrid Pipe-Digital Organ was designed by Maestro Olivera and our console bears a signature plate with his name. This concert is a gift from Allen Organ to our congregation and community. Please invite your friends and family to join us for this spectacular afternoon of music.

**LADIES TEA PARTY:** Please join us **Saturday, May 4th** at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for "Ladies Tea." Bring your favorite teacup, if you wish. Join in the fun and fellowship as we enjoy various teas, tea sandwiches, soup, and sweets. Tickets are required. Price is \$11.00 per person age 12 and older, (under 12 are free). Deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday, April 28th.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** monthly outreach is donations of new baby clothes, diapers, and related baby items for the Liberty Ministries Baby Bag Program for Women. There is a container in the Social Room to accept these donations.

**OUTDOOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE SPRING/MOTHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER:** OMC is taking orders for Wendy's Flowers Gift Cards. Each gift card costs \$25.00 and is redeemable at Wendy's Flowers locations in Gilbertsville and Barto. Gift cards may be used to purchase any item(s) in Wendy's shops. Outdoor Ministries receives \$5.00 for each gift card purchased. Orders may be placed on the forms available on the table in the Social Room or the table outside Fellowship Hall. Or contact Delores Schuler, Debra Brauner, Lois Anastas, Gail Gerhard, or Donna Fried to place an order. **The deadline to order a gift card is April 28th. Gift cards may be paid for and picked up on Sunday, May 5th after worship services.** Questions? Ask any of the people listed above. Why not buy two gift cards? Buy one for a special person and one for yourself!

**GAMES, GAMES:** All are invited on May 5 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Come and enjoy some fellowship with friends and family for lots of laughs and some fun just for being together. Meet in Fellowship Hall. Snacks and pizza will be provided. Any donations will go towards the Capital Campaign. Any questions, please call Janet Weikel at 215-679-8722.

**FIRST MONDAY MEAL:** All are invited to join us Monday, May 6 for a delicious meal prepared and served by Tribe Nutrition. The menu is Swedish meatballs over noodles, green beans and flavored applesauce. *Take out* service will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. **OR** if you prefer to *dine in*, Pennsburg UCC will be serving spaghetti and meatballs, salad and dessert. Dinner is served there promptly at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!!

**PRESENTATION SUNDAY – MAY 12 – MOTHER'S DAY:** The Confirmation Class will present their "Faith Statements" at both services on Mother's Day. Five the students at 8 a.m. and six of the students at the 10:30 a.m. service. All of their statements of faith will be published in the bulletin that day.

**NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED – SUNDAY, MAY 19:** If you have been attending New Goshenhoppen Church and would like to become a member of the congregation, we will receive new members on Confirmation Sunday. Join in the celebration of a great day as we celebrate the Family of Faith. Speak with Pastor Dave about your interest.

#### **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

The church is grateful for financial gifts received in the name of loved ones and friends.

#### **CEMETERY FUND**

In memory of Clair Fox

by Janet & Chris Weikel by Shirley Fox

#### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND**

In memory of Clair Fox

by Steve & Kathy Lentz

#### In memory of Edith Roeder

by Steve & Kathy Lentz

#### **GENERAL FUND**

In loving memory of my husband, Neil H. Gery

by Linda

#### In memory of Clair Fox

by Mark & Sally Heimbach

**SUMMER CAMP** program brochures are available on-line and also can be found at the Fellowship Hall entrance and other church access areas. Early bird registration ends April 30<sup>th</sup>. Email any questions or concerns to camp@newgoshucc.org.

**ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS** may pick up their arrangements in the vestibule outside the <u>Fellowship Hall Entrance</u> following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Flowers will remain there until Wednesday, after which time they will be discarded.

**BULLETINS** are presented in memory of departed loved ones by Tom & Elizabeth Graber; and in memory of parents, Amandus & Glenna Frank and Francis & Esther Kline by Roger Frank.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented in memory of departed loved ones by Janet & Chris Weikel.

**OPERATING INCOME 4/21/24:** Current & Benevolences \$2,242; Building, Improvement & Maintenance \$187. Monthly EFT income \$5,060.

**ATTENDANCE: 4/21/24 -** 8:00 a.m. 49; 10:30 a.m. 80; Livestream (You Tube) 34. Sunday School 63.

Above is the "Live" Concurrent Household Number - (Note: "number of households" is less than "number of people". If on average each household has two people watching, then our numbers are 2x the number of households that tuned in.)

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE:** 61 giving units have responded. There is \$61,130 pledged. The amount received since 2023 is \$39,961 (including Capital Campaign memorial gifts.)

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:

Year to Date Income	\$198,929.87
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$198,929.87
Year to Date Expenses	\$212,764.75
Special Projects BIM Income	\$32,606.00
Special Project BIM Expenses	\$97,521.18
Meadows Payback Income Year to	
Date	\$445.00

#### **ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK**

Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (S)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class (CF)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service & Livestream (S)
	3:00 p.m.	Organ Concert (Sanctuary) followed by refreshments (Fellowship Hall)
Mon.	6:00 p.m.	Friendship Committee (Heidelberg Room)
	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee (Roberts' Room)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	12:00 p.m.	Kitchen Renovation Committee (Kitchen)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts (lower level classrooms)
Wed.	6:30 p.m.	Property & Park Committees (Roberts' Room)
Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Cardio Drumming (FH)
Fri.	6:15 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Heidelberg Room, Apostles' Room, 4 <sup>th</sup> grade classroom)
Sat.	10:30 a.m.	Daughters of the American Revolution (Roberts' Room)
	11:00 a.m.	Women's Fellowship Tea (FH)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (S) - Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class (CF)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service & Livestream (S) – Communion/Baptism
	11:30 a.m.	Move furniture in preparation of new carpeting
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation Game Night (FH)

#### **THANK YOU TO OUR SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**

**8:00 a.m.** Narthex: Neil Kemp

Roberts' Room: Katie Stankunas

Elevator: Ted Stankunas Upper Narthex: Lois Anastas Liturgist: Amy Hangey Acolyte: Delores Schuler

10:30 a.m. Narthex: Sheri Ackerman

Roberts' Room: Sue Jacobs Elevator: Doug Atno Upper Narthex: Denise Fox Liturgist/Acolyte: Kelly Johannsen

# MOTHER'S DAY CARNATION PROJECT

# REMEMBER MOTHER OR GRANDMOTHER ON MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 12.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to honor my loved one and also to encourage the good work of A Woman's Place in Doylestown, PA and Liberty Ministries in Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

#### Kindly use a separate form for each carnation ordered.

This year, instead of delivering carnations to a health care facility, we wish for all women of New Goshenhoppen to be remembered. At the conclusion of both services, every woman is invited to come to the chancel railing and receive a carnation.

In Honor of	-
In Memory of	_
Presented by	
Relationship to you:	
(Indicate Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Sister, etc.)	

#### **Cost \$5.00 each.**

Checks should be made payable to New Goshenhoppen Church. Kindly mark the envelope "Carnation Project." Please mail-in to the Church Office, place in the offering plate, or put in the black lock box located outside the Main Entrance door (at the elevator entrance).

#### Deadline for orders is Monday, May 6.

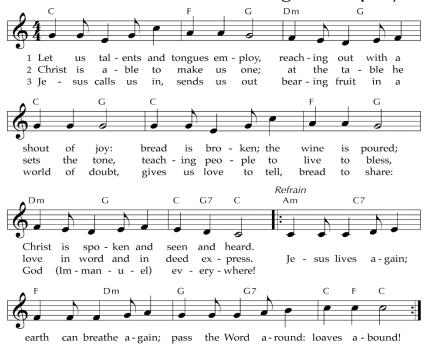
THE WORD



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

# 526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This "communion calypso" (as the author called it) affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians. Because this text was written to fit a pre-existing tune, it has a rather telegraphic style that encourages pondering.

# $703\,$ Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me



John Wesley learned the original German hymn from the Moravians during his time in Savannah, Georgia, and translated all sixteen stanzas. The tune, named for a 4th-century martyr, comes out of the Roman Catholic revival movement of the mid-19th century.

TEXT: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. John Wesley, c. 1739, alt. MUSIC: Henri Frederick Hemy, 1864; alt. James George Walton, 1874

ST. CATHERINE