



# The Presbyterian Church of Dover

*April 28, 2024 + 11 AM + Fifth Sunday of Easter*

## The Gathering

Ring of the Hour, Welcome, & Community News

Prelude

“Prelude-Hocket” from *Delaware Suite*

David Schelat

### + Call to Worship

We come to worship with joy, trusting God’s holy word will inspire us.

**We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit’s blessing.**

May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.**

### + Opening Prayer

**Holy One, we thank you for your gift of guidance. Jesus taught us the blessed lesson that to dwell with you is not an obligation. It is a joy. We abide in you by striving to live in love. May we be the bounty of the fruit of the vine to feed your people with righteousness and justice. May we bring to the world the grace afforded unto us. Amen.**

### + Opening Hymn #366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

### Confession & Pardon

Even in the joy of resurrection, we do not forget the anguish of our sins. We pray together in confession and lament:

**Risen One, we confess our silence amid the persecution of others, silence that has often complied with oppression and brought harm. What can we do to eradicate poverty, hunger, and homelessness? Help us to hear your voice above all others, and teach us how to care for our neighbor, feed the hungry, and clothe and care for those in need, for as we do these things unto one another, we do them also unto you. Amen. (*Silent Prayers*)**

In joy of resurrection, we claim the victory of Christ over the power of sin. God has rolled away the stone to reveal our salvation. We look inside the tomb, and where Jesus once lay lifeless, we find the gifts of God's grace and forgiveness. Go and tell the world! **In Christ we are forgiven. Amen!**

+ Hymn #240 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks!" (refrain)

+ Passing the Peace of Christ

## The Word

The Word in Song "Where Shall I Go From Your Spirit" Kenney Porter  
Women's Ensemble

The Children's Sermon Julia Wheeler-Dean

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading John 15:1-8 (p. 878)

Scripture Reading 1 John 4:7-21 (p. 991)

Response This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "How do YOU show love" Julia Wheeler-Dean

## The Response

+ Affirmation of Faith (Apostles Creed)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and 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 from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

+ Hymn #647 "Give Thanks"

## 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.

*\* Please use whichever words and language you prefer.*

## Receiving of the Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Improvisation

+ Doxology #606

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving

With gratitude for all that we have and all that we are, we bring our gifts and ourselves to you, Loving God. Receive them and receive us with your abundant and life-giving grace. In the name of Christ, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

## The Sending

+ Closing Hymn #300

“We Are One in the Spirit”

+ Benediction

Postlude

“Koraal” from *Suite Modale*

Flor Peeters

*+ Please stand as you are willing and able*

## Announcements

**Participants:** Lynn Linscott (Lay Leader), Heather Thomson (Livestream)

**In the event of pastoral care needs while Pastor Mark is away, please contact Karen Joseph in the church office (302-734-3313) or Julia-Wheeler Dean (862-266-6175).**

**Thank you** for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers during these sorrow filled times since Ed's passing. Your words have comforted us through your many cards and your support and love has strengthened me for the days ahead.

The Celebration of Life service was so moving and truly honored Ed and sustained me to carry on with God's help. A special thanks to the many who provided a beautiful reception as well.

In Christ's love, Kathy Gazze and Family

**Worship Credits:** Prayer of Illumination liturgy from *Book of Common Worship*, Prayer of Thanksgiving liturgy comes from Rev. Dr. Mark E. Parsons II; all other liturgy from *Call to Worship*. Reprinted/streamed with permission under One License #A-716734, CCLI SongSelect License #21953553, and CCLI Streaming License #21953546.

# Upcoming Events at The Presbyterian Church of Dover

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4
Pastor Mark's Sabbatical April 10-May 8 Worship with Julia Wheeler-Dean 11 AM	Bells of Praise 6 PM (choir room)			NA 6:15 PM (social hall)  Chancel Choir 7 PM (choir room)		

## Prayer Requests

Please *email* requests to the church office by *Tuesdays at 2 PM* so that we can keep track of prayers.

- Family members in the service at home and abroad, the homeless, those suffering from COVID-19 and variants, those adversely affected by natural and unnatural disasters, those in the hospital and/or Hospice care, those dealing with life-threatening issues.
- Those with health concerns, specifically Brendan Ward (Addy Babus' grandson), Terry Bone (Marsha Wycoff's brother), Harriet DiChiara, Ellen Estus, Naomi Adom, Pat Franze's granddaughter Emma, Evie Schlauch, Barbara Trent, Jeffrey Sytsma-Sherman, Beverly Sisson (Laurie Cummins' friend), Bernie, Beverly, and Chris Case.
- The citizens of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, and others who are impacted by wars and violence around the world.
- The families of those killed and injured in mass shootings in our country and all those who live with physical, emotional, mental, and financial repercussions related to mass shootings.
- The homebound members and friends of the church, specifically, Kathleen Boone, Claire Bradley, Marianne Leavitt, Charlie Lohrmann, Betty Maine, Charlotte Massey, Hank & Sandy Rhodes, and Eva Ritter.

## The Presbyterian Church of Dover

[www.doverpresbyterian.org](http://www.doverpresbyterian.org)

54 South State Street, Dover, DE 19901-7312, 302-734-3313

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Parsons II, Pastor, 304-532-3628, [revdrparsons@gmail.com](mailto:revdrparsons@gmail.com)

Karen Joseph, Office Manager, [predvr@verizon.net](mailto:predvr@verizon.net)

Betsy Gray, Handbell Choir Director and Interim Choir Director

Barb Bayers, Media Technology Coordinator and Interim Organist

Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 1 PM, Mon.-Thurs.



*Check out the  
latest news here!*