

# The Presbyterian Church of Dover

*April 7, 2024 + 11 AM + Second Sunday of Easter*

## The Gathering

Ringing of the Hour, Welcome, & Community News

Prelude

“Nettleton”

John Wyeth arr. Chester Kingsbury

+ Call to Worship

Jesus said, **“Follow me.”** Jesus said, **“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”**

Jesus said, **“Forgive seventy times seven.”** Jesus said, **“Feed my sheep.”**

In response, we say: **“Here’s my heart. Take and seal it. Seal it for thy courts above.”**

Let us worship God with all our hearts. **Amen.**

+ Opening Hymn #475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Confession & Pardon

Gracious God, like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination. Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray. **Amen.** *(Silent Prayers)*

+ Hymn #582

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

+ Passing the Peace of Christ

## The Word

The Word in Song

“The Lamb”

arr. Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

The Children’s Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

God of second chances and God of new life, we have spent our days wandering. Like Peter, we have milled about through nearly every state of faith. We have had courageous days and convicted days, learning days and questioning days. We have had days where we run to you, days for diving out of the boat, days for deep joy, and days where the pain of the world feels too close to bear. So as we bring our wandering hearts to you, we ask that you draw us in. Allow this story to spark something new in us. Allow this story of grace to give us pause and pull us in. We are listening. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading

John 21:1-19 (p. 883)

Response

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

## The Response

### + Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who shows up in our lives—surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways. We believe in a God who cares for God’s people— a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended. We believe in a God who took on flesh— a God whose love changed the world as we know it. We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat, calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community. And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.

### Reception of New Members

Mary Jane Barto, Donna Blakey, Evanelle Geldof,  
Mollie Goss, Charles Morgan, Janet Stewart, Michael Stewart

### Receiving of the Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Improvisation

## The Feast

### The Invitation & The Great Thanksgiving

#### 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.*

### Sharing the Feast

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth from this place by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world: The Lord has risen indeed! Amen.

## The Sending

### Sabbatical Blessing

Leader: Friends in Christ, today we give thanks to God for Pastor Mark and ask for God’s blessings as we send him for sabbatical rest. We ask God to bless this intentional time of growth both for him and for our congregation, and we ask that God bring him back to our community refreshed and nourished by God’s Spirit.

We wish Godspeed to Pastor Mark as he begins his sabbatical. As you journey, God dwell with you while we are away from one another.

*Pastor Mark: God’s blessing on you while I am gone from you.*

**God fill you with the Holy Spirit as you visit new surroundings. We pray that you experience the gift of spiritual growth in your journey and that you return renewed and energized for ministry.**

*Pastor Mark: I pray that you, too, might be renewed and energized to serve in God's name. God's peace be with you as I leave to walk in different places.*

Leader: The primary and unique symbol for pastors is their stole. It points to their being yoked with Christ and set apart by the Church for pastoral ministry. Pastor Mark will now remove his stole and place it on the Communion Table where it will remain until he returns from Sabbatical. The presence of Pastor Mark's stole will remind us of our shared journey and of our mutual commitment to pray for one another during this time apart. Let us pray together:

**Spirit of God, descend upon our hearts. Renew Pastor Mark for his ministry among us as our pastor through this time set aside for reflection, renewal, and rest. Give him respite from the daily tasks and routines of his ministry and give him safety as he travels. We pray as well for our guest preachers and those who will provide pastoral care in these coming weeks. Bless them as they lead us. Keep all of us steadfast in our faith, joyful in our calling, and excited for what God will do through and with us all during this time while we are away from one another. Amen.**

+ Closing Hymn #246 "Christ is Alive!"

+ Charge & Benediction  
 May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of God's hand. **Amen.**

Postlude "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" (ST. KEVIN) Arthur Sullivan  
 arr. Humphrey Turner  
 + Please stand as you are willing and able

# Announcements

**Participants:** Karin Faulhaber (Lay Leader), Tom Worley (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).**

**Worship Credits** Prayer of Thanksgiving liturgy comes from the *Book of Common Worship*, Lent theme, liturgy, and logo for "Wandering Heart" is by A Sanctified Art (sanctifiedart.org), used with permission; "Return to You" by Sarah Speed and Can Olgun, A Sanctified Art, used with permission. Reprinted/streamed with permission under One License #A-716734, CCLI SongSelect License #21953553, CCLI Streaming License #21953546.

# Upcoming Events at The Presbyterian Church of Dover

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13
Worship with Welcoming of New Members 11 AM	Bells of Praise 6 PM (choir room)	Committee on Leadership 4 PM (Zoom)	Pastor Mark's Sabbatical (4/10-5/8)	NA 6:15 PM (social hall)		

	KCC Rehearsal 6:30 PM (sanctuary)	IMPJ Committee 7 PM (Zoom)	Fellowship Committee 6:30 PM (Zoom)	Chancel Choir 7PM (choir room)		
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## Prayer Requests

Please submit requests to the church office by *Tuesdays at 2 PM*. Please email so 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, Rev. Dr. Stephen Clark (former pastor of Debbie Johnson), and Beverly Bishop (Pat Franze's friend).
- 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, Sandy & Hank Rhodes, and Eva Ritter.
- Family & friends of the recently deceased, specifically Ryan Kohlmann (Rev. Cindy Kohlmann's brother), Ed Gazze, and Vincent Pietracatella (Anthony's cousin).

## The Presbyterian Church of Dover

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

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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.



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latest news here!*