



# Chester Bethel UMC

May 12, 2023 9:30 AM

## Sharing in Worship Leadership this morning:

Preacher: Rev Kelly Conner  
Organist: Carmella Lynch  
Bell Choir Director: Pam Manocchio  
Special Music: Carmella Lynch  
Greeter: Lorraine MacMillan  
Usher: Laura White  
Worship Leader: Rich Kuc

*Altar flowers are given  
to the glory of God*

## Prayer Joys and Concerns:

H=Health; L=Loss; LT=Long Term; O=Other

Ramona Harlow (LT); Sylvia Illuzzi; Jane Dean (H); Lillian Williams (H); Richard J. Steele (H); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); Bill Rice (H); DeBrock Family (O); Laura White (H); Allison (H); Kim Nally; Amy (H); Cecelia Steele's family (L); Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (H); Mabel & Alan Ladd (H); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war.

*Please add prayer requests and updates to the list in the Narthex*



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**Rev. Kelly Conner**

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Follow us on Facebook!

### Announcements:

- Our Easter Season sermon series, called “Sent,” is about the apostles’ next steps in their post-Jesus ministry, which can instruct us as to our purpose and calling in the world.
- Important! If you receive an email asking for money or gift cards, it is a scam. Don’t open any attachments. Call the office if something is questionable—Tues, Thurs., Fri. 9-1
- If you are a vet and would be willing to speak briefly at a 10:30 AM Memorial Day remembrance at the cemetery, please let the office know.
- There will be a **shredding event** at Claymont Community Center on Saturday, June 8, 10am to 1pm. REGISTRATION REQUIRED at [local.aarp.org](http://local.aarp.org). If you can’t access a computer but want to register, please call Linda Lyons at 856-340-3891.
- The Missions’ Committee will meet today, after the service.

### Dates to remember

- May 14; 3:30—SPRC meeting
- May 14; 6—Trustees meeting
- May 23 –PreK Graduation at 9:00 AM
- May 27 – Memorial Day service at Thrift Shop; 10:30 AM

May 12, 2024  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Ascension Sunday

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (for Ascension Day, based on Ps. 47)<sup>1</sup>

Leader: Ascended God, we praise you for the mighty power of your royal reign!

People: **Glorious and Righteous King of all things: we come today to worship you.**

Leader: Ascending God, we give thanks for your continuing reign of truth and love.

People: **“Come, everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!”**

Leader: LORD Most High God, Creating King of all that was and is, and all that will be:

People: **we sing our praises and offer our thankful prayers for all your gifts to us.**

Leader: Awe-inspiring God, the Alpha and the Omega:

All: **we revere your Holy Name, and yearn for the time you’re your Kingdom of justice and peace is realized in its fullness.**

\*OPENING HYMN – “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”  
UMH #312

OPENING PRAYER

**Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from original found on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2019/05/opening-prayer-for-ascension-day-psalm.html>.

<sup>2</sup> The Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from 1 Cor 15:1-6 and Col 1:15-20)  
UMH #888

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy One, come to us in the reading of your Word. Open us to your Spirit's presence in our hearts and minds, so that our lives may be a vessel for your truth, which brings hope to the world. Amen.**<sup>3</sup>

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 47  
NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 1:1-11

SERMON "Sent: Jesus Ascended – So Now What?"

SPECIAL MUSIC

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE – "Kum Ba Yah" vv. 1,2,4 & 5  
UMH #494

THANKSGIVINGS AND INTERCESSIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER  
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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into**

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from original found on <https://peacefulpebbles.blog/tag/prayers-of-illumination/>.

**temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*You are invited to give in one of the following ways:*

- 1. You may place your cash or check offering into the plates we pass around at this time*
- 2. You may mail your tithes and offerings to the church office*  
*Thank you for your donations and the ways in which you all use your gifts to work as Christ's hands and feet in the world!*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise Him, the source of all our gifts; praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

\*CLOSING HYMN – "Crown Him With Many Crowns"  
UMH #327

\*PRAYER OF BENEDICTION<sup>4</sup>

**Risen and ascended Lord Jesus, when we are numbed by the suffering of this world, take us back to the deep truth of your power and glory, of your invincible Kingdom, and of your promise of reconciliation. In the knowledge of this truth, help us to bring our gaze to earth and to find the strength to go into the world, so that we might do your will on earth as in heaven. Let us serve with you in building your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.**

POSTLUDE

\*Standing, in body or spirit

*Music licensing CCLI #1642131, Streaming license CCLI #20705544*

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from original found on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/prayer-building-kingdom.html>.