

Sixth Presbyterian Church

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sunday, May 17, 2026



We gather as God's people for worship and to share the gifts, strengths, and talents of all who are here while respecting the beliefs, opinions and struggles of others as we strive to love one another as God loves us.

1688 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217
412-421-2752 / officesixthchurch@gmail.com
www.sixthchurch.org

Sixth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, May 17, 2026, 11:00 am
7th Sunday of Easter

The Sanctuary is a sacred space. The choral chimes will ring three times to let you know it is time to quiet your hearts, minds, and voices to prepare for worship.

Prelude “Variations on *Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn*” Erik-Jan van der Hel

Welcome and Announcements

Peace Candle

Introit “Blessed Jesus” Gabriel Faure

Blessed Jesus, Lord and God, we, thy children, follow thee, we would always follow thee.
Gentle Shepherd, lead us now in the paths of righteousness, in the paths of righteousness.
Though we walk in shadowed vale, filled with foes who would assail,
Thou art by us with thy love, leading us to heaven above, leading us to heaven above.

Call to Worship

Let the righteous be joyful!
Sing to God; sing praises to God’s name;
lift up a song to the one who rides upon the clouds.
Listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.
Ascribe power to God, whose power is in the skies.

*Hymn “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” 267

*Prayer of the Day

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Christ our Savior, as you ascended, you left the work to us. You called us to keep the movement going, to witness to the ends of the earth, to pray, to heal, to glorify you through our thoughts, words, and deeds, to show the world a glimpse of the goodness you have given us. We have fallen short of this call. We have hidden ourselves in fear, sought our own comfort, and resigned ourselves to the status quo. Forgive us, and strengthen us to do your will, that we may be signs of your coming reign.

Silent Confession

267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

Kyrie, Lord Have Mercy

579

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two lines of music. The first line contains two measures of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second line also contains two measures, with the first measure having a vocal line and the second measure having only piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." and "Lord, have mer - cy." respectively.

Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (E-flat major). It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains two measures of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second line contains two measures of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The third line contains two measures of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The fourth line contains two measures of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the", "Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -", "gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,", and "world with - out end. A - men, a - men." respectively.

Time of Wonder

*Exchange of Peace

Remembering that some of our church family is watching the livestream, let us first turn to the cameras and say, "Peace be with you!" (*turn and offer the peace.*) Being mindful of the comfort levels and boundaries of those around us, let us pass the peace of Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

God Most High, reigning in glory, send down your Spirit of wisdom to shine in your heavenly Word, so that we may worship you with joy continually blessing your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Scripture Reading

John 17:1–11, p. 136

Second Scripture Reading

Acts 1:6-14, p. 143

Response to the Scripture Readings

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe

*Hymn

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!”

258

*Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.

Prayers of the People

*As led between petitions, all are invited to respond: **God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.***

The Lord’s Prayer

2019 Vatican Update

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; do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

1 John 3:16–17

How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods yet refuses to help a sister or brother in need? Remembering God’s great love for the world, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

For our electronic giving option, scan QR code:



258 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the
 3 To all, the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to

out the world shall ring: Christ, by a road be -
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, and with his fol - low -
 gaze up - on the sky? This is the Sav - ior!"
 por - tals of the sky. Here - af - ter you shall
 you let earth ac - cord. You are, while end - less

fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 ers they see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
 thus they say; "This is his glo - rious tri - umph - day."
 Je - sus see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
 a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.

These stanzas have been crafted from various English translations of a much longer Latin hymn preserved in an 11th-century manuscript in the British Museum. This text celebrating Christ's majesty is well set to a 15th-century English tune commemorating a military victory.

TEXT: The Venerable Bede, 7th–8th cent.; trans. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt. DEO GRACIAS
 MUSIC: "The Agincourt Song," c. 1415; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2012 LM
 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (admin. Augsburg Fortress) (alternate tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN with "Alleluias," 15)
 Music Harm. © 2012 Alfred V. Fedak (alternate harmonization, 189)

Offertory Anthem

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

Amos Bull
arr. Michael Silhavy

Hail the day that sees him rise to his throne above the skies.
Christ, awhile to mortals given, re-ascends his native heaven.
There for him high triumph waits. Lift your heads, eternal gates.
He has conquered death and sin; take the King of glory in.
Highest heaven its Lord receives, yet he loves the earth he leaves.
Though returning to his throne, still he calls the world his own.
See, he lifts his hands above. See, he shows the pains of love.
Hark, his gracious lips bestow blessings on his church below.
Still for us he intercedes; his prevailing death he pleads,
Near himself prepares our place, he, the first fruits of our race.
There we shall with him remain partners of his endless reign,
There his face unclouded see, live with him eternally.

*Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

608

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

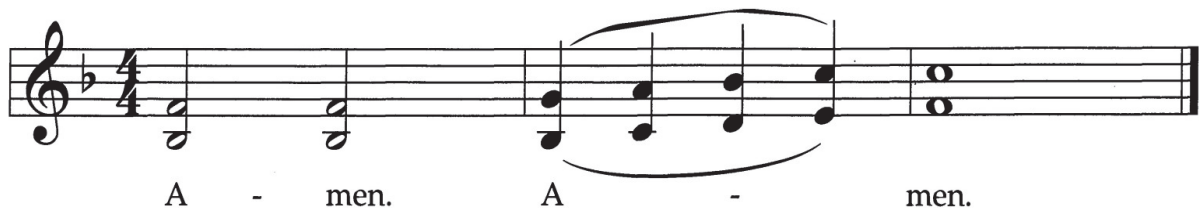
268

Benediction *All are welcome to join in singing:*

May the peace of our Lord Christ go with you wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

*Amen

599



Postlude

“Voluntary on Ascension”

Healy Willian

Feel free to sit and enjoy the Postlude or quietly leave as you wish.

**Those who can may stand*

Crown Him with Many Crowns 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

Church Announcements

Today's Service:

Diana Patton (liturgist); Eve Guyette (pastoral prayer); Greg Winner (livestreaming); Bill Beggs, Carol Beggs, Ray Dittner (ushers)

Liturgy resource: From *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts*, May 17, 2026. Used by permission. © 2026 Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). calltoworshipjournal.org

Coffee Hour After Service

Refreshments can be found in the chapel after worship.

Reception of New Members Next Week

We are delighted to celebrate the reception of new members on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th. If you have previously attended Sixth Membership Classes but are not yet a member and would like to join now, or if you are a member at another PCUSA congregation considering transferring your membership, please contact Pastor Charissa for more information.

Pentecost Sunday is coming! Wear Your Red!

Don't forget to wear you RED on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th! RED is the traditional color for the Day of Pentecost, "symbolizing the fire of the Spirit that rested upon the faithful disciples of Christ, and gives life to the church in every age."* Red symbolizes the empowerment from God to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world.

The Meaning of Pentecost: Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate hope, a hope evoked by the knowledge of God through the work of his Holy Spirit. The celebration of God's ongoing work in the world is found in the recognition of the work done through His people as He pours out His presence upon them. It is a time for all of us to commit to a renewal of purpose, mission and calling.

In addition to wearing red, all are also invited to bring red foods to enjoy after service. Please leave them in the chapel before worship on the 24th.

**PCUSA, Liturgical Year, Supplement Liturgical Resource 7*



Worship Time Change:

*Summer worship time will be 9:30AM-
starting on June 7th!*

Upcoming Meetings and Events in (and around) the Church:

Sunday, May 17 (after worship)

Coffee Hour (12pm, Chapel)
MCC (1:50-3:30pm, Sanctuary)
FiberArts Guild (2-5pm, Chapel)
NA- Keep Coming Back Men's Mtg (8-9pm)

Tuesday, May 19

Staff Meeting (10am, Office)
Food Justice Project (7:30-9pm, Chapel and Zoom)

Wednesday, May 20

Bible Study (10:30-11:30am, Zoom)
Pgh Bridges OCD Support (7-9, Parlor)

Thursday, May 21

Youth Group (4:30-7pm, ELPC)

Friday, May 22

Tri Lam (2-5pm, Parlor)

Saturday, May 23

AA-Turning Point (5-6pm)
NA-Squirrel Hill Group (7:30-8:30pm)

Sunday, May 24

Day of Pentecost & Reception of New Members
Sunday School (10am)
Choir Rehearsal (10am, Sanctuary)
Worship (11am-12pm, in-person & streaming)
Coffee Hour (12pm, Chapel)
Church and Community (12pm, Parlor)
Gun Safety Meeting (12pm, Pastor's Office)
MCC (1:50-3:30pm, Parlor)
NA- Keep Coming Back Men's Mtg (8-9pm)

Adult Education Workshop

Register now for the Adult Education Workshop!

Where? Schenley Park

When? Saturday, May 30th from 9:30-3:30pm

We want to hear from you. Register now by scanning the QR code below or finding the event link at our sixthchurch.org homepage.

Questions? Reach out to the workshop facilitator, Dr. Adams. He's eager to speak with you.

**ADULT EDUCATION WORKSHOP
IN SCHENLEY PARK**

REGISTER TODAY!

**Cultivating Intimacy With the
Animate Earth:**

An Experiential Workshop
by Way of Contemplative Spirituality

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026 9:30AM- 3:30PM



Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe, *Pastor*
Jenny Newman, *Director of Christian Education*
Shay Carter McGraw, *Music Director*
Harry Kirk, *Building Administrator*
Kelly Johnson, *Office Administrator*
John S. McCall, *Pastor Emeritus*

To be added to the church newsletter email list, request pastoral care, or for any other questions or concerns, please contact us here.



Pride March on June 7th

Come out and celebrate while we share God's love with all God's people!



Sixth is a proud participant in LAMP – the LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh. We are excited to again celebrate Pride in Pittsburgh this summer! While there are many Pride events sponsored by different groups across various neighborhoods, the one Pride event LAMP will participate in this year is the Pittsburgh Pride March and Festival after worship on Sunday, June 7.

1. Walk with the LAMP contingent in the Pride Parade march!

The march begins at noon on Liberty Avenue and concludes at Allegheny Commons Park West where the Festival takes place. There is no need to sign up for the march! Right after worship service, bus downtown to LAMP's location in the lineup which is on Liberty Ave between 13th St and 14th St. Look for East Liberty Presbyterian's white van (shown in the group photo above).

2. Volunteer at the booth!

We need volunteers to set up, tear down, and staff the booth during the festival on Sunday, June 7.

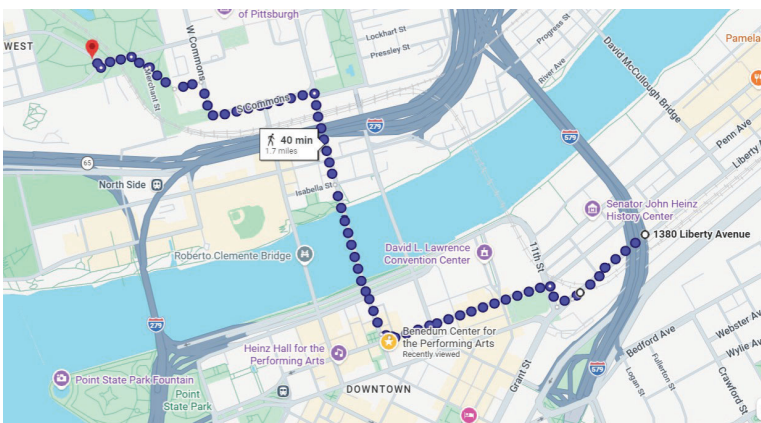
Please visit this link to sign up :
[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D44AFA82BABFE3-63762035-pride#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D44AFA82BABFE3-63762035-pride#/)



All booth volunteers are invited to a Zoom Orientation at 7pm on Wednesday, May 27th:

Meeting ID: 987 0842 9177
Passcode: 853178.

While not mandatory, attendance is encouraged, especially if this is one's first time volunteering for LAMP at the booth.



Picnic and Worship in the Park

May 31 at 11 am

Rhododendron Shelter at Highland Park

All are welcome!



We're bringing back the grill!

Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, along with buns and all the fixins.

You're bringing your own plates...

In the interest of our efforts to be an Earth Care Congregation, the Kitchen Fellowship Committee is suggesting that you bring a plastic plate/s from home to use for dining, if you are able to do this. There will be some paper goods available for those who are unable to "bring your own."

Cutlery will be supplied (and subsequently washed) by the Kitchen Fellowship Committee, as we have done for the past several years.

and side dish, salad, or dessert to share!

Worship will be starting at 11 am. If you are able, it would be good to bring outdoor chairs or a blanket. If you need to unload items, it is fine to drive down close to the shelter, but then we ask you to move your car back to the road (unless this presents mobility difficulties for you). We will provide a few folding chairs.

If anyone is in need of transportation, please let Kelly in the office know by Wednesday, May 27, and she will get word to the KFC chairs. Kelly can also email a map to you if you need help finding the shelter. However, the easiest way to get there is to travel east on Stanton Ave. (which intersects Highland Ave.). It eventually curves to the left (north) and continues into the park. The shelter is on the right in a very short while – and we'll be so happy to see all of you!