

**Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church**  
**419 Bossardsville Road**  
**Stroudsburg, PA**

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**Celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**A Service of Word & Sacrament**

**4/25/2021**

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*I am the vine,  
you are the branches.*

**Welcome to Christ Hamilton!** Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. If you are at home you can find a print copy of this service available on our website at [www.christhamilton.org](http://www.christhamilton.org). Please print a copy of this bulletin so you might follow along with the video of our service if worshipping at home: share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers.

Call and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Visit us on our website: [christhamilton.org](http://christhamilton.org) and check out our Facebook page.

**Today's service:** *This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

**Altar flowers** are given by Sandy Lee in remembrance of her parents, Jacob and Velma Hartman.

**The Altar Rose** is given by Dan and Wanda Courtright in honor of the birth of their great-granddaughter, Kaeloni Aurora.

## **PRELUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

# Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

## GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

# KYRIE



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **G** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

# Hymn of Praise

# Glory to God



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ 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.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



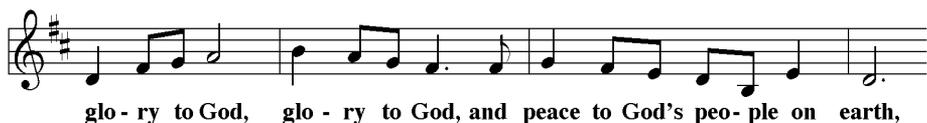
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Let us pray. . . O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

**FIRST READING****ACTS 8:26-40**

Reader: A reading from the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts.

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.     **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Sung responsively.*

PSALM

Psalm 22:25-31



Cantor: From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the  
Lord.

**All: The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the Lord give praise!  
May your hearts | live forever!**

Cantor: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord;  
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

**All: For dominion belongs | to the Lord,  
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

Cantor: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall  
kneel be- | fore the Lord.

**All: Their descendants shall | serve the Lord,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

Cantor: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet  
unborn,  
saying to them, "The | Lord has acted!"

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 4:7-21

Reader: A reading from the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of First John.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was

revealed among us in this way: 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 loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives 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. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so 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 reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.     **All: Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**GOSPEL****John 15:1-8**

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just 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. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

<sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**



## **NICENE CREED**

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers

Assisting Minister: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all especially those in need of prayer that we raise to you now . . . . .

Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

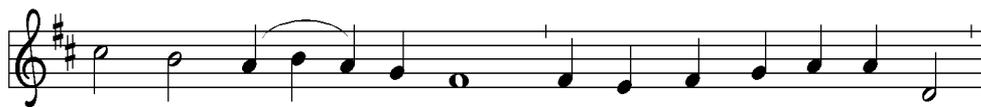
**All: Amen.**

## Offering

### Offertory      At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing      v. 1, 4



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . God of love,

**All: You call us beloved children**

**and welcome us to your table.**

**Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.**

**Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;**

**for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Preface**

Minister: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Minister: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of  
 sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,  
that by this Holy Communion we may know  
the unity we share with all your people  
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**All: Amen**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Minister: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**All: 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 temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Minister: The risen Christ invites us to this table.

**All: Let us come, eat and be satisfied.**

### ***Communion***

*We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Ushers will bring the prepackaged wafer and grape juice to you. **Please open the packet – but do not take the wafer or juice until the pastor has indicated** in order that we might commune together.*

## Lamb of God



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

# This Is My Father's World



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for- get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.  
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.  
The blood of Christ shed for you.

*After all have returned to their places.*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen.**

## PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Almighty God, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

## BLESSING

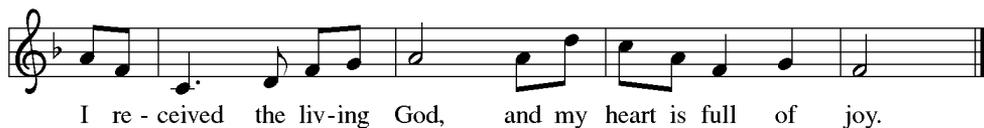
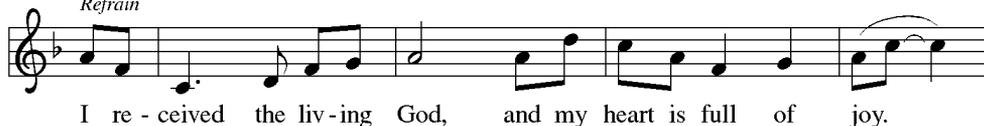
Minister: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## I Received the Living God

*Refrain*



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.  
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.  
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.  
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

## **Dismissal:**

Assisting Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Share the good news.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **Worship Leaders**

Minister	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Assistant Minister	Jeff Gilbert
Reader:	Bonnie Claycomb
Cantor:	Jeff Gilbert
Keyboard	Gail Haydt
Announcements	Dan Courtright

**Please Remember in Prayer:** Gary Kapostas, Sandy Haney, Henry McCool, Ruth Ann Helriegel, Otto Lange Faith Kapostas, Ron Schlegel, Evelyn Seidof and Dumitru David.

### **Through 3/31/21**

YTD operating receipts	\$62,879
YTD operating expenses	<u>\$74,889</u>
YTD deficit	-\$12,010

**Spring Clean-Up!!** Well it's that time of year again! The leaves are popping, the air is warm and the smell of spring is all around. Please bring gloves, rakes, leaf blowers, pruners and whatever else you use to clean up outdoors. There will be plenty of jobs and tasks for everyone, so bring the whole family for a morning of fresh air and service! Please see Dan or Wanda Courtright when you arrive to see where you can help!

**STEPHEN MINISTRY** - Feeling emotional especially during these uncertain times during COVID 19? Perhaps a Stephen Minister could help! They specialize in just "listening". Call the church office at 570-992-4085.

**Pill Bottle Collection:** We are collecting **CLEAN** pill bottles, with the **LABELS REMOVED**. You can drop them off at the church office. Please clean your bottles out with soap and water. Labels can be removed by spraying "Goo Gone" directly onto the bottle and letting them sit overnight.

**Snydersville Diner:** The Snydersville diner is still giving back 10% of your bill to CHULC. Once you feel safe to dine out again, don't forget to show them your CHULC card at check-out!!

**Time & Talents:** Today we ask that you place your completed Time & Talents sheets in the designated box during the hymn of the day. We are trying to focus on specific skills and gifts, and how they can help and support the various committees here at Christ Hamilton. Thanks to everyone who took the time to prayerfully consider how they can serve!

*“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”—Romans 12:6-8*

**Community Garden:** Next month Mike Brong will be tilling up our community garden. If you have anything left in your plot from last year please clean it out. If you are new to gardening and are interested in a plot this year please let the office know 570-992-4085.

**PATH Walk:** The annual PATH walk, supporting Pocono Area Transitional Housing will be held on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Courthouse Square in Stroudsburg. The walk will run from 12:30-1:30pm. Yellow sign up/sponsor sheets are available on the bulletin table.

**Facility Manager Update:** After many, many years of faithful dedicated service to Christ Hamilton, Dan Courtright has notified the personnel committee and church council, that he would like to retire at the end of December 2021. Council has established a plan, along with Dan, to formalize a building-by-building standard operating procedure manual utilizing Dan's vast knowledge of each facility to create a written document to preserve information for years to come.

Fortunately for all of us, Dan is not planning on going anywhere and will remain in a leadership role within the Property Committee. We are planning to discuss more details, including our search for a new Facilities Manager, during an upcoming Temple Talk, date to be determined.

**Music Director Update:** Gail Haydt met with the personnel committee after Easter and Gail expressed that she does not want to take on a full-time Music Director position. She loved her position as an accompanist and bell choir director and would like, if at all possible, to go back to that position. Gail is also a music teacher in Easton and is the sole caregiver for her son Stephen. Personnel will be listening to an organist play our new organ sometime in mid-May and will continue to discuss options for a music director here at Christ Hamilton.