

# **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Berkeley Heights**

May 9, 2021

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

**The Greeting**

Pastor George

**Prelude**

*Whom Shall I Fear  
(God of Angel Armies)*

Michael Goetjen

**Call to Worship**

Maggie Gonzales

This is the day the Lord has made . . .

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!

We are the Lord's People: Cherished by God. Loved by God. Blessed by God.

Called by God. Commissioned by God . . . to make a Godly difference in the World.

Affirming our calling . . . and affirming our blessing: LET US WORSHIP GOD!

**Gathering Hymn**

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

#610

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace!

The name of Jesus charms our fears,  
and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears,  
brings life, and health, and peace.

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful waken to rejoice;  
the poor in heart believe.

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy name.

To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heaven.

## **Prayer of Invocation**

Maggie Gonzales

Gracious and loving God: We commence our worship by taking time to give thanks.

We give You thanks for . . .

Your love that will never let us go.

Your providential care and guidance that leads us in all of our endeavors.

Your amazing grace that redeems and restores us.

Your forgiveness that removes our guilt and frees us from self-judgment.

And Lord: We thank You for the people You put in our lives who are blessings to us:

Our mothers. Our fathers. Our children. Our friends. Our supporters. Our ‘encouragers’.

Lord of ALL blessings: Thank You for blessing us.

By a strong work of Your Spirit . . . help us to be a blessing to others. Amen.

## **Reading of the Word**

Numbers 13:1-3; 17-21; 25-33

Maggie Gonzales

**13** The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites; from each of their ancestral tribes you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.” <sup>3</sup>So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the LORD, all of them leading men among the Israelites.

<sup>17</sup> Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, “Go up there into the Negeb, and go up into the hill country, <sup>18</sup>and see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, <sup>19</sup>and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the towns that they live in are unwalled or fortified, <sup>20</sup>and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be bold, and bring some of the fruit of the land.” Now it was the season of the first ripe grapes.

<sup>21</sup> So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebohamath.

<sup>25</sup> At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. <sup>26</sup> And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup> And they told him, “We came to the land to which you sent us; it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> Yet the people who live in the land are strong, and the towns are fortified and very large; and besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites live in the land of the Negeb; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea, and along the Jordan.”

<sup>30</sup> But Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.” <sup>31</sup> Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we.” <sup>32</sup> So they brought to the Israelites an unfavorable report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land that we have gone through as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are of great size. <sup>33</sup> There we saw the Nephilim (the Anakites come from the Nephilim); and to ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”

....This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music**

*If We've Ever Needed You*

Michael Goetjen

**The Prayers of the People and the Disciple's Prayer**

Pastor George

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.

## Hymn

*Our God is An Awesome God*

#616

Our God is an awesome God  
who reigns from heaven above  
with wisdom, power, and love;  
our God is an awesome God!7

## Proclamation

Pastor George

*“Reaffirming the ‘Can-Do / Overcome-It’ Spirit”*

## Closing Hymn

*For All the Faithful Women*

#324

For all the faithful women  
who served in days of old,  
to you shall thanks be given;  
to all, their story told.  
They served with strength and gladness  
in tasks your wisdom gave.  
To you their lives bore witness,  
proclaimed your power to save.

We praise your name for Miriam,  
who sang triumphantly  
while Pharaoh’s vaunted army  
lay drowned beneath the sea;  
For Ruth, who left her homeland  
and ventured forth in faith,  
who pledged to serve and worship  
Naomi’s God till death.

We sing of busy Martha,  
who toiled with pot and pan  
while Mary sat in silence  
to hear the word again.  
We praise the other Mary,  
who hastened to the tomb  
and found her Lord arisen,  
dispelling doubt and gloom.

Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas,  
who served the sick and poor.  
Her hands were cups of kindness,  
her heart an open door.  
O God, for saints and servants,  
our fervent prayer we raise,  
that, faithful in your service,  
our lives may sing your praise.

**Charge & Benediction**

Pastor George

**Postlude**

*You Never Let Go*

Michael Goetjen

**Thank You For Serving!**  
**Pastor George Betz, Michael Goetjen,**  
**Maggie Gonzales, Rosemary Clayton and Dave Christie.**

**If you have been blessed by this Service, tell a friend.**  
**Also, please consider contributing to our Church and its Ministry.**