

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Church
Growing Together for Christ
Rev. Dr. Douglas Liston, Pastor – 847-497-4JOY (4569)
5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org



May 9, 2021

6th Sunday of Easter

This week we will be worshipping both in-person (socially distanced and with masks) and on-line through Zoom and Facebook. There will be a link on our website to watch on Zoom, or you can watch the live-stream on Facebook! Stay safe and God bless!

Gathering

Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

Call to Worship

Come to worship, people of God, with praises on your lips.

Even when we are feeling isolated and fearful, we can glorify the One who holds our hands in our loneliness.

Come into the presence of the One who makes holy every place, every space, holy and sacred.

Even where we continue to stay safe in our homes, the doors of grace are flung wide open for us.

Come and hear the stories of the One who loves you.

In the sanctuary, in living rooms, on laptops and devices, we will sing our songs and tell those tales of the peace and of the hope which is ours.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Gathering Songs

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31 (NRSV)

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 66:8-20 (NRSV)

⁸Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

⁹**who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;**

¹²you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

¹³**I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,**

¹⁴those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah**

¹⁶Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

¹⁷**I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

¹⁹**But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22 (NRSV)

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21 (NRSV)

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments ...

This is the gospel of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Prayers of Intercession

Meal

Offering/Offering Song

Friends, while our programs and in-person worship are temporarily modified, our responsibilities for our regular bills (mortgage, utilities, payroll, etc.) continue. Please send your gifts to the church office: 5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051 or you may give online at www.joyfulharvest.org.

Call to Reconciliation

What is our hope? Simply put, it is that God has not abandoned us. With such good news, we can dare to bring our prayers to the One who will not cast aside our words or our hearts. Please join me as we pray together...

We must tell you, God who knows us better than we think, how easy it is to put our trust in those who offer easy fixes, quick solutions, cures and tests and false hope in these days. It is easier to believe the glib words of politicians, the conspiracies of all the theorists, rather than to those who are rational and based in science. All too easily, we can buy into the notion that the economy is more important than safety, that jobs matter more than the lives of the most vulnerable, that our so-called rights trump the need to be a community of compassion and grace. Forgive us, God of mercy. You are not found in political rhetoric, but in the child who holds our hand. You are not a simple tweet, but the Word that can transform our very lives. You are not a disembodied, constantly recalculating voice, but the One who calls us to life, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Silence is kept...

Despite everything we do, God loves us. This is grace, pure and simple. This grace is why, when everything says we should not, we can dare to hope.

We will witness to this grace with every breath we take, with every gift we offer, with every word we share with others. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Lord's Supper

Words of Institution and 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 temptation but deliver

us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Communion Song

Sending

Sending Song

Sending and Benediction

Wherever you are, continue to speak of what God has done.

We will remind everyone that, despite everything, God loves us.

Wherever you find yourself, continue to sing of what God is doing.

**We will rejoice that God has not left us orphaned,
but makes us one with everyone around us.**

Whenever you can, continue to imagine what God will do.

**We will witness to that hope which seems to distant, yet is as close to
us as our hearts.**

Commissioning

At Joyful Harvest Church, **our mission is growing together for Christ.**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value: **Family Worship, Relying on Prayer,
Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to
God's Community.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

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Announcements

Pollinator Pockets - Do your part to save the pollinators - the bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects critical to our food supply and human survival. *Help Joyful Harvest plant a "pocket" of flowers that attract and nurture pollinators.* You may not realize that manicured lawns, exotic plantings, and enticing hybrids and cultivars often provide no value to pollinators. By placing pollinator pockets into your landscape, you provide an oasis for pollinators. Now that's sweet! *No experience needed!!*

Community Garden: Hey, Community, it's almost time again to GARDEN!!! We need to think about what we would like to grow in our garden. If you would be interested in being part of our community garden project here at Joyful Harvest, talk to **Pastor Doug.**



Next Feed My Starving Children Outing:

Monday, June 14 5:00 p.m. Mark your calendars!

St. Jude Children's Ranch: We are collecting greeting cards! Please bring in the whole card Juanita will separate the front from the back. Save your used holiday and all-occasion cards, bring them to the church, and we'll ship them off to St. Jude's!

Men's Group: We meet on **Saturday mornings @ 7 a.m.** at the church for fellowship and learning more about God's call on our lives. All men are invited to attend.

Cross Keys Village Stampers: Cut used postage stamps from the mail you receive at home, bring it to the church and we'll make sure the Cross Keys folks receive them!

Donate to help the ministries of Joyful Harvest!

Scan the QR code on the left with your mobile device. You'll go straight to our online giving page to set up a one-time or recurring gift through your debit/credit card processed through PayPal. Your generous gift will support our many outreach ministries. ***Thank you for making so much possible!***



Susan Mercado has set up a Joyful Harvest web page that will help JH financially! Go to savingwithsusan.com/joyfulharvest and click on your favorite online shopping sites; or, visit our web page and clicking on the link on the right side of our homepage! The church will receive a commission on everything you buy, and you pay nothing extra!

Donate for Tijuana Mission Project! - Toys and school supplies! When our volunteers go to Tijuana this year, they would like to take some items that the kids can use. *If you should see a backpack on sale for the kids, we can fill it with school supplies. Soccer balls or footballs can be deflated and taken. Jump ropes, small toys, t-shirts for kids would be good, too.* There is a box in the narthex for donations. *Thanks so much for your generosity.* **See Ray Pratscher or Theresa Ancona for info.**

Weekly Calendar

Sun. May09	Sunday Worship <u>Live-Streaming and In-Person</u>	9:00 a.m.
Tue. May11	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:30 p.m.
Wed. May12	Live-Streaming Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Thur. May13	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:30 p.m.
Sat. May15	Men's Group – <u>Live-Streaming and In-Person</u>	7:00 a.m.
Sun. May16	Sunday Worship <u>Live-Streaming and In-Person</u>	9:00 a.m.

MAY 9, 2021
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Jesus will not abandon us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul in Athens
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:13-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 31:7-8	God will be with you
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Friday	2 Timothy 1:3-7	Thanksgiving & encouragement
Saturday	Psalms 66:8-20	Shout praises to God
Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“I [Jesus] will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.” **John 14:18 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come, Holy Spirit, give me the faith and strength to love others as Christ has loved me and the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food and the people who have brought it from the earth to our tables, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who made the world and everything in it, bless you with a loving heart. (Acts 17:24)

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In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life. Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or tell about a time you have felt alone and afraid.
- What do you do when you feel all alone or abandoned?
- Talk or think about a time you have felt God's presence when no one else seemed to care.

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 14:15-21. The Gospel of John weaves themes into one another like a beautiful tapestry. That is clearly what is going on here in John 14. At the heart of it is that Jesus will not abandon his followers. He loves them and wants them to love him by keeping his commandments (v. 15), which is to love one another (13:34). Jesus will remain with us, his followers, through the presence of "another Advocate" (v. 16), just as Jesus himself is an advocate (1 John 2:1). The word "advocate" in the original Greek also means counselor, helper, or intercessor. The Advocate is here to help us. Like Jesus, the other advocate is the Holy Spirit, "Spirit of truth," just as Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). After Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, we still have Jesus with us through the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes Christ a reality in our lives today in that we may love one another and the world as God does (John 3:16). We are not abandoned after Jesus' ascension; we are empowered to live out the new commandment to love one another and the world. How do you, as a follower of Jesus, live out the new commandment? *Pray:* **The Lord's Prayer.**

SERVICE

Jesus gives us the commandment to love others by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-21). There are times when it is not easy to love because of actions or things said or not said. Think of someone that it is not easy to care for and offer this prayer for them: **Dear Jesus, open my heart to the needs of others. Help me to care for (name) with your love. Amen.**

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In John 14:15-21, Jesus gives us the promise of the Holy Spirit. One pivotal principle of faith formation is that faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Write a list of people who have influenced your life of faith. How did they influence you? Name a person who you have or would like to influence and pray for them this week asking for the power of the Holy Spirit to form a trusted relationship.



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Join us for worship: Sundays 9 am!