

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices during this hour of worship.)*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

Acolyte: Peyton Lewis

### PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Darin Clipper

***Please use this time for silent meditation and preparation for worship. Prayer cards are in the pew rack in front of you. Please place in the offering plate for inclusion in the morning prayers and addition to our church's prayer list.***

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT "Seek Ye First"

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!  
Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,  
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!***

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 133)

Liturgist: Carolyn Francis

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**All: It is like the precious oil on the head.**

Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

**All: For there the Lord ordained his blessing: life forevermore.**

**All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!**

#### \*OPENING HYMN # 598 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, forgive our hardness of heart, our determination to believe we are better than others, our foolish pride. Forgive us when we are selfish and self-absorbed. Help us to be so filled with your love and grace that our joy is to love others as we have been loved. Please hear us now as we continue our confession in silence ...**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Romans 5:1-2a)

Leader: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand. Friends, give thanks again for God's amazing grace:

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.**

#### \*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING AND ENACTING THE WORD

#### \*HYMN OF CONSECRATION # 595 "They'll Know We Are Christians"

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

David E. Dillard

#### ANTHEM

*(Children will be dismissed to Children's Worship following the anthem.)*

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST READING 1 John 1:1—2:2

Page 224, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### SECOND READING Acts 4:32-35

Page 114, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON "The Power in Unity"

Rev. Susan Bennett

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### OFFERTORY

*\*DOXOLOGY*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost;  
O praise Him, O praise Him; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 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.**

**BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

*\*CLOSING HYMN* "Happy The Church When God is There"

*Happy the church when God is there, and love fills everyone,  
When with united work and prayer the Master's will is done.*

*Happy the church where God's strong love is starting to appear,  
Where all the children hear his fame and parents hold him dear.*

*Happy the church where prayer is heard, and praise is everywhere,  
Where people love the sacred Word, and its true wisdom share.*

*Lord, let us in our church agree this blessed peace to gain,  
Unite our hearts in love to thee, and love to all will reign.*

*\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

*\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE* "Because He Lives"

*Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives all fear is gone;  
Because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.*

*\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY*

David E. Dillard



**WELCOME VISITOR!** We are delighted that you are here to share worship of our Lord Jesus this morning together with the rest of us. We want you to be well informed about our Christian faith and about our church so don't be afraid to ask. You may communicate with us in several ways. Ask a neighbor in your pew, fill out a blue first-time visitor card, add your name to the Ritual of Friendship pad and by all means do not hesitate to contact our pastor. May God bless you this morning and throughout the week.

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor  
David E. Dillard, Director of Music Ministries  
Stephanie Dunn, Youth Director  
Mary Thompson, Christian Ed Coordinator

Levena Hemmle, Office Manager  
Tom Francis, Custodian  
Nursery Attendants: Stephanie Phillips and Megan Bennett

# Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

**April 22, 2012  
11:00 a.m.**



*Now the whole group of those who believed were of  
one heart and soul ...  
Acts 4:32a*