

CHRIST OUR ANCHOR

PRESBYTERIAN  CHURCH
Annapolis, MD

**Sunday, April 25th, 2021
Facebook Live at 10:00 am
Communion Sunday**

Mental Health Awareness Sunday

Rev. Jessie Lowry, Minister

Diana Martin, Music

Rich Kelley, Lay Reader

Welcome Song

Friends

arr. Lloyd Larson

Diana Martin, piano

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

In Honor of Mental Health Awareness Month

Father, we pray for the unity and mission of our beloved Church; guide us all as citizens and leaders of this land, this state and this city ... that we may unite to provide for and protect the poor, the homeless and those who suffer in mind, body and spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

Forgive us when we knowingly or unknowingly ridicule, neglect or discriminate against those who are mentally ill.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

Comfort and relieve those who are troubled in mind and spirit. Bring them hope, peace and the consolation of a loving community.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

Grant patience and courage to the families and friends of those who are ill. Increase their perseverance as they face challenges to recovery for their loved one.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

Protect and defend those living with mental illness from exploitation, addictions and abuse.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

For the families who have lost a loved one to mental illness, bring them comfort in trusting that your grace accepts their ill loved one into your loving arms of mercy.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

Empower us to speak up for those who do not have a voice; save us from making peace with the injustices in the social systems that have failed them.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

Heavenly Father, Giver of life and health, we trust that in your time and way, you will dispel all darkness with your light, all confusion with your order, all fear with your peace. Through Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time / Message for All Ages

Scripture Reading

Acts 15: 1 - 18

15 Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders.³ So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers.⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.⁵ But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

⁶ The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter.⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers.⁸ And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us;⁹ and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us.¹⁰ Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear?¹¹ On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

¹² The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles.¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me.¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name.¹⁵ This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

¹⁶ 'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up,¹⁷ so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things¹⁸ known from long ago.'

Sermon

How Do We Widen Our Welcome?

Rev. Jessie Lowry

Musical Presentation

Amazing Grace vs. 1, 3, 4

Diana Martin, piano

Verse 1

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I am found,
was blind, but now I see.

Verse 3

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

Verse 4

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

Offering Moment

Call to Offering

Offertory Music / Reflection Time

The Power of Your Love

arr. Jane Holstein

Diana Martin, piano

*Let us reflect on God's generosity towards us in these times
as we enjoy the offertory music together.*

Joys and Concerns Prayers of the People

*Please feel free to note any of yours joys and concerns in the comments section
or by emailing the church office at coa_office@christouranchorpc.org.*

Welcome and Invitation to Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God

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

(prayer continues concluding with the Lord's Prayer...)

The Lord's Prayer (*In Unison*)

**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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Communion of the People

Concluding Prayer (*In Unison*)

**Gracious God,
we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your Son Jesus,
who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal.
We praise you for giving us all good gifts in him, and pledge
ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Song

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

arr. John Carter

Diana Martin, piano

Psalm 121: 7 - 8

The Lord will keep you from all harm

he will watch over your life;

The Lord will watch over your coming

and going both now and forevermore.

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Worship Service Schedule

10:00 am On Facebook Live
<https://www.facebook.com/ChristOurAnchorPC/>
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