

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
May 6, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

When the prelude begins please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.

PIANO PRELUDE – Please remain seated and join in singing with the Worship Team

GATHERING “Blessing and Honor and Glory and Power” Hymn #300

WELCOME Dr. Timothy Witmer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 93*)

ONE: The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty

ALL: The LORD has clothed Himself with strength;

ONE: Your throne is established from of old;

ALL: The LORD on high is mighty.

ONE: Your testimonies are fully confirmed;

ALL: Holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.

*OPENING HYMN “And Can It Be That I Should Gain” Hymn #455

*INVOCATION Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

CALL TO CONFESSION (*Psalm 32:1-2*)

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. Let us humbly confess our sins to the Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, we praise you for adopting us as your children and making us heirs of eternal life. In your mercy you have washed us from our sins and made us clean in your sight. Yet we still fail to love you as we should and serve you as we ought. Forgive our sins and renew us by your grace, that we may continue to grow as followers of Christ, in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “The 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.**

*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 Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

¹ or universal

CHILDREN'S SONG (Children ages 4-8 may leave for Kingdom Kids)

Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me,
Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me,
He forgave my sin and He saved my soul,
He cleansed my heart and He made me whole,
Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me.

Go; and tell the story, of the Christ of Calvary,
Go; and tell the story, of the Christ of Calvary.
He will forgive their sins, He will save their souls,
He will cleanse their hearts, He will make them whole,
Go; and tell the story of the Christ of Calvary.

INSTALLATION QUESTIONS

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:26-43 page #884

SERMON “The Cross” Dr. Timothy Witmer

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Prayer” L. Boellmann

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Doxology”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, gracious giver of the bounty we have received, accept these offerings of your grateful people, and add to it your blessing to promote the advance of the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN “The Power of the Cross” Songs of Praise #30

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

RECEIVING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN “Like a River Glorious” Hymn #699

*BENEDICTION (Pastor)

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE “Prelude in A Minor” (BWV 543a) J.S. Bach

(Should you be moved to respond to a musical offering, a hearty "Amen" is recommended)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Timothy Witmer

Associate Pastor: Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

Elders: John Garner, Josh Irvine, Richard Miller, Mike Ressler

Deacons: Gene Eberly, Tom Frankhouser, Ernie Orr, Chuck Kidhardt

Organist Emeritus: A.J. Young

Organist and Choirmaster: Douglas Wimer

Music Leader: Rev. Dr. Stuart Sacks

Children's Ministry Director: Faith Titus

Ushers: Ken Strubel, Deb Strubel, Ben Strubel & Jocelyn Strubel

Greeters: Bruce & Migdalia Gingrich

Altar Guild: Viki Eberly

Counting Team: Bob Spotts & Ron Bensing

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ORGAN PRELUDE

“Jesus Christus, unser Heiland” (BWV 626) J.S. Bach
(Jesus Christ, our Redeemer)
“Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed?” E. Diemer

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and making us heirs of eternal life. In your mercy you have washed us from
our sins and made us clean in your sight. Yet we still fail to love you as we
should and serve you as we ought. Forgive our sins and renew us by your
grace, that we may continue to grow as followers of Christ, in whom alone is
our salvation. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR MERCY (Kyrie) “Lord Have Mercy upon Us”

ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ONE: Christ, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Christ, have mercy upon us.
ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

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