



A (Re)Storied People
May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter



MEDITATION

We were written not only to hear and tell stories, but we are a story. Our lives are composed of millions of stories, but most have been forgotten or simply don't register as important enough to remember. When I say that we are a story, I'm saying that we're more than the sum of our stories. We are, in fact, a unique, once-on-the-earth life that reveals the story of Jesus in a fashion that no one else will ever do in the way we are written to reveal. If we fail to know the themes of our unique story, we are less likely to live that story well or play our role.

-Dan Allender

There is something in us, as storytellers and as listeners to stories, that demands the redemptive act, that demands that what falls at least be offered the chance to be restored. The reader of today looks for this motion, and rightly so, but what he has forgotten is the cost of it. His sense of evil is diluted or lacking altogether, and so he has forgotten the price of restoration.

- Flannery O'Connor, *Mystery and Manners*

The life of man is a story; an adventure story; and in our vision the same is true even of the story of God. . . . For all the other philosophies avowedly end where they begin; and it is the definition of a story that it ends differently; that it begins in one place and ends in another. . . . There is such a thing as a human story; and there is such a thing as the divine story which is also a human story; but there is no such thing as a Hegelian story or a Monist story or a relativist story or a determinist story; for every story, yes, even a penny dreadful or a cheap novelette, has something in it that belongs to our universe and not theirs. Every short story does truly begin with creation and end with a last judgement.

-G. K. Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man*

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Monday, May 19th	Psalm 133	1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42	Acts 11:19-26
Tuesday the 20th	Psalm 133	2 Samuel 1:4-27	Acts 11:27-30
Wednesday the 21st	Psalm 133	Leviticus 19:9-18	Luke 10:25-28
Thursday the 22nd	Psalm 67	Proverbs 2:1-5	Acts 15:36-41
Friday the 23rd	Psalm 67	Proverbs 2:6-8	Acts 16:1-8
Saturday the 24th	Psalm 67	Proverbs 2:9-15	Luke 19:1-10

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WELCOME

Second City Church is a community that exists to worship the Triune God and to celebrate, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Harrisburg.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We hope this guide will help you participate in our service. If you have any questions about our worship, faith, or how you can be a part of our mission to serve God and neighbor in Harrisburg, be sure to talk to our pastor.

For Parents:

Children of all ages are welcome to remain with us as we worship. We like the noise; it helps us remember we are alive. The following services are available for you and your children to get the most out of your time of worship:

Infant & Toddler Care

Infant and toddler care is available on the first floor of the east wing of our building. Ask one of our greeters if you need help locating this room. Nursery staff are well-trained, have required background checks, and maintain a safe environment for your child(ren).

Children & Worship

Children & Worship is for children ages preschool through 2nd grade and meets in a worship space below the sanctuary during the sermon. They are dismissed during the announcements and return during the offertory. New families are welcome to tour the space before or after a service if desired.

ADVENT + CHRISTMAS + EPIPHANY + LENT + EASTER + PENTECOST + TRINITY

Easter is the greatest festival season of the Christian year. It begins with the feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday) and lasts for 50 days. After the long preparation of Lent, and the cold dreary winter months that accompany it, and the somber preparation of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, Easter Sunday erupts into our hearts and souls as a joyous celebration filled with expectation of Christ's work among us. For 50 days we feast and celebrate Our Lord and his great victory. Easter themes are new life, joy, exuberance, resurrection, hope and love. The liturgical colors for Easter are white and gold.

Please note that our services are live-streamed.



LITURGY OF PREPARATION

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

based on 1 Peter 1:3-5

Gathering Hymn - O for A Thousand Tongues To Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King
The triumphs of His grace

He breaks the power of canceled sin
He sets the prisoner free
His blood can make the foulest clean
His blood availed for me

He speaks, and, listening to His voice
New life the dead receive

The mournful, broken hearts rejoice
The humble poor believe

Glory to God, and praise and love
Be ever, ever given
By saints below and saints above
The church in earth and heaven

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King
The triumphs of His grace

Confession Hymn - Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Holy Spirit rest upon us, lead us in the way of your justice
Holy Spirit rest upon us, teach us how to serve in our weakness

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Holy Spirit rest upon us, teach us how to tend to creation
Holy Spirit rest upon us, guide us from our path of destruction

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness & Peace

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Psalm 103:8-14

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

[Invitation for congregation to share a sign of peace with one another]

Hymns of Praise and Adoration

Our Great God

Eternal God unchanging mysterious and unknown
Your boundless love, unfailing grace and mercy shown
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight, around Your glorious throne
They raise their voices day and night, in praise to You alone

Hallelujah glory be to our great God
Hallelujah glory be to our great God

Lord we are weak and frail, helpless in the storm
Surround us with Your angels, hold us in Your arms
Our cold and ruthless enemy, his pleasure is our harm
Rise up O Lord and he will flee, before our sov'reign God

Hallelujah glory be to our great God
Hallelujah glory be to our great God

Let ev'ry creature in the sea, and ev'ry flying bird
Let ev'ry mountain, ev'ry field and valley of the earth
Let all the moons and all the stars, in all the universe
Sing praises to the living God, who rules them by His Word

Hallelujah glory be to our great God
Hallelujah glory be to our great God

Goodness of God

I love You, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night, You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father, I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
[Repeat]

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Living Our Faith

Blessing Our Children

Jesus called the children to him and said,

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,

for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

May Memory Verse

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." *John 20:17*

Psalm Reading

Psalm 62:5-8; page 566

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.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6-8; page 179

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 2:12-13; page 1160

The Word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:
Glory to you, O Lord!

John 21:1-25 - 1078

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor Peter Rowan - *A (Re)Storied People*

Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended to 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 catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

- *The Apostles' Creed*

Offering of Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father, when You breathe into us the breath of life, you shaped and formed us so each one is unique yet all are in Your image, We praise You!

Jesus, God the Son - Resurrection and Life, you chose to die and rise from the dead to free us from sin and death, and give us eternal life. We praise You!

Living Spirit, who sustains our life by Your presence, you give us strength when we are weak; direction when we are lost; and love at all times. We praise You!

We praise you for hope that's ours because of Jesus' resurrection: Hope to face life with courage and meet death in peace; Hope to sustain us in dark times, for we know our life's light comes with the rising Son.

Therefore, we can pray with expectant hope.

For those who need healing in spirit, soul, mind and body . . .

For those who need comfort in grief and guidance when confused . . .

For those who are without necessities of life . . .

For those who have no gospel witness in their own tongue and culture . . .

For those who celebrate new life . . .

This we pray, in the name that is above every God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit: We praise you at the opening of this day of days!—even the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering of Gifts

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:32

Friends and members of Second City Church support the extension of God's Kingdom with gifts of bread, wine, talents and resources. Guests are not expected to contribute. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plates, boxes on the wall as you leave, or can be made electronically. Instructions for setting up online giving are available at the donation boxes.



Doxology

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



LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Invitation

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Praise God for His Mighty Acts

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. We bound to praise you chiefly for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Leader: Holy holy holy Lord

People: Holy holy holy Lord

Leader: God of power and might

People: God of power and might

Leader: Heaven and earth are full of your glory

People: Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Leader: Hosanna in the highest
People: Hosanna in the highest

Leader: Blessed is he who comes
People: Blessed is he who comes

Leader: In the name of the Lord
People: In the name of the Lord

Leader: Hosanna in the highest
People: Hosanna in the highest

(Together) Hosanna in the highest

Praise for Christ's Sacrifice

Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Calling on the Holy Spirit and Lord's Prayer

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us:

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, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Jesus ate and drank with sinners!

Therefore let us keep the feast!

Sharing Holy Communion

Second City Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ in a Christian church to join us in this sacrament. Non-communicants can come forward and ask for a blessing. If you need to receive communion in your seat, ask a fellow worshiper to let the communion servers know. If you are unable to receive wine, you will find a chalice containing non-alcoholic grape juice at the station the pastor is serving. The communion bread is gluten-free.

Closing Prayer

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Hebrews 13:20-21

Closing Hymn - Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission, perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love

Refrain

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love

Refrain

Dismissal

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Hallelujah! Amen.



ATTRIBUTIONS

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Words by Charles Wesley (1739)

Music arranged by Lowell Mason (1839)

Lord, Have Mercy

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Goodness of God

Words and music by Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson

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Sanctus

Matthew Monticchio

Blessed Assurance

Words by Fanny Crosby (1873)

Music by Phoebe Palmer Knapp (1873)

Oh God beyond All Praising

Words by Michael Perry (1990)

Music by Gustav Holst, The Planets, 1918

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O Love of God, How Strong and True

Words by Horatius Bonar (1858)

Music by C. Hubert H. Perry (1916)

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Cover Image:

Jesus Appears on Lake Tiberias

Duccio, di Buoninsegna, 1308-1311

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Picnics Starting Today After Church

Our first picnic of the summer happens today! Join us after church at the LOWER pavilion of Negley Park, located at 418 Cumberland Road in Lemoyne.

Reminders for Election Day, May 20

This Tuesday May 20 is the next primary election, and once again the church will be serving as a polling place. The county requires all visitors other than voters not to enter the Social Hall but to use alternate doors to enter and exit the building. Thank you for your cooperation.

Missions Team Meeting Sunday, June 1

The Missions Team will meet after church on June 1 to share updates on current missions partners and to consider adding new partners.



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Interested in Volunteering with VBS Next Month?

We are excited for what this summer holds for our children's ministry at Second City! Our hope is to host a three evening VBS June 11-13, but we can't do it without your help. If you are interested in helping in any way or would like to learn more about the program, please contact Hannah Hollander at hannah@secondcitychurch.org.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are placed in loving memory and affection for the May 21st birthday of her husband Wilson, and also in memory of the birthdays of her father-in-law, Mr. Samuel W. Watts on May 22nd, and her mother, Mrs. Stella Auxt on May 23rd, by Mary Watts.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Dottie Roden
Darwin Leshner
Virginia Anderson

Nevin White
Sophia James, USAF
Eleanor Orner

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please consider liking, following and subscribing to our social media! Also, when you see, read or watch something you like, share it with your friends. It's a helpful way to let others know we are here!

Facebook



Instagram



YouTube



Your contact information

If you are our guest and would like to indicate your presence with us, or if you'd like to make us aware of a change in your contact information, fill out this form and place it in the offering plate.

- _____ Visitor
- _____ Regular Attendee
- _____ Member

Name(s):

Address (please include city and zip):

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Prayer
Requests: _____

Contact us

(717) 232-0604
251 Verbeke St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102
www.seconddcitychurch.org

Office hours:
Tues. & Thurs., 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Pastor
Peter Rowan
peter@seconddcitychurch.org

Music Coordinator
Jess Reapsome
jess@seconddcitychurch.org

Children's Ministry Director
Hannah Hollander
hannah@seconddcitychurch.org

Administrator
Sylvia Olimpi
office@seconddcitychurch.org

Elders
Dan James
Jonathan Hendrickson (Clerk)
Dave Tanis
Bruce Weatherly