



*Peter's Vision*, 19th century. Building: Church of St. Peter  
Object/Function: Stained Glass. City/Town: Nottingham  
Country: United Kingdom

## ***Service for the Lord's Day***

**May 18, 2025  
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

### ***Gathering Around the Word of Worship***

**Gathering Music** Mike Kanan

**Striking of the Hour**

**Choral Prelude** *Hem of Your Robe*  
Pepper Choplin

### **Welcome**

*We Rise in Spirit and in Body*

**Call to Worship** (responsive)

Adapted from Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

**Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord...Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds.

**Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**Praise the Lord!**

**Opening Hymn 679**

*Let The Whole Creation Cry*

SALZBURG

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession** (unison)

**O God, you are mighty in love and wide in your mercy. Your ways are steadfast and true. In your love, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Silence is observed for Personal Confession*

## Confessional Anthem

KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ, have mercy upon us,  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## Declaration of Good News (responsive)

Behold: The former things have passed away, and God's grace flows like a river of new life. Friends, hear the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! You are made anew!

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

## Passing the Peace of Christ (responsive)

People will come from east and west, from north and south, to draw near to Jesus Christ in his kingdom. The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## A Time with Young Christians (children welcomed to the front of the sanctuary)

### ***Hearing the Word***

*All Sit*

## Prayer for Illumination (unison)

**Gracious and Loving God, you once declared, "See, I am making all things new."  
So now, O God, open our hearts and minds to your transforming word in Scripture.  
Grant us a new vision of the height, depth, and breadth of your love, that we may  
be inspired to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, reflecting the new creation  
you have begun in us. Amen.**

## New Testament Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

**Anthem**

*My Master from a Garden Rose*

Eleanor Daley

*All Stand*

**Gospel Reading**

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

*All Sit*

**Sermon**

*Deep and Wide*

Kyle Otterbein

***Responding to the Word***

*All Stand*

**Response Hymn 203**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

CHERE PONI

**Affirmation of Faith** (unison)

based on The Belgic Confession, Art. 27

**[Christ's] holy church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain persons. But it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world, though still joined and united in heart and will, in one and the same Spirit, by the power of faith.**

*All Sit*

**Offering**

*Call to Offering*

**Offertory**

*Christ lag in Todesbanden*

Balduin Hoyoul (transcr. Nathaniel Brown)

*All Stand*

**Doxology**

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*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison)

**Generous God, receive these offerings. Do more with them than we can ask or imagine, furthering the holy work of your new kingdom, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who commissioned us with love. Amen.**

*All Sit*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*A Moment of Silence*

*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 and Following the Word into the Created World***

*All Stand*

**Closing Hymn 317**

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

MCKEE

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Canzon in C*

Giovanni Paulo Cima

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Sermon Notes

**USHERS:** Polen and Thomison families

**COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE** Blake Miller, Keelin Murrell, Mack Overfelt, Jeremiah Simpson and Johnna Smith

**LAY READER:** Larry Gildersleeve

**MEDIA PERSONNEL/SEXTON:** Laura Parkerson

**NURSERY:** Alisia Simmons, Yamilet Bruno Sanchez

**LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY MAY 25:** Acts 16:9–15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; John 14:23–29 *or* John 5:1–9.

## **TODAY**

**DEACON OF THE WEEK** this week will be Fred Kernohan. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** will meet today at 9:15 a.m. It will conclude an hour later in time for 10:30 a.m. church service.

**FELLOWSHIP PICNIC** Plan to join us on today at 2:00 p.m. for our Fellowship Picnic at Covington Woods Park, Shelter #1. There will be plenty of food, fun, and fellowship. Meats and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.

**THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP** will **NOT** meet today. The group will attend the Fellowship Picnic at 2:00 p.m.

## **COMING UP:**

**2025 ANNUAL CPR/DEFIBRILLATOR COURSE** sponsored by the Christian Education Committee, and taught by the Friends and Family Outreach Department of the College of Health and Human Services at WKU. The course will be held on Wednesday, May 21 in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served at 8:15 a.m. and the course will begin at 9:00 a.m. It will last approximately 2 hours. No experience necessary and repeat students welcome. Last year's course received rave reviews from attendees. Sign-up sheets will be placed on the landing table so we can make appropriate plans. This is an important skill for our church members to have, from teens to seniors. We look forward to your attendance.

**NEW MEMBER RECEPTION** You are cordially invited to the New Member Reception on June 8 at noon. We welcome all members to come and celebrate our newest members. We look forward to seeing you there.

**SUGGESTED OFFICER NOMINATIONS 2025** This is a friendly reminder to turn in your Officer Nomination Form with your suggested candidates for Deacons and Elders by June 8.

## **OTHER NEWS**

**STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD CAMPAIGN** was a success! A big thank you from Missions to Sharon Hendrix, Rob Hale, Rick, Trina and Sarah Larson, Kelly Goad, and John Fitts for working at the post office Saturday afternoon, and to John and Stuart Kernohan for unloading the food into the church. If anyone has some time to assist with organizing the boxes (17+) into the food pantry, please check with the church office or Frederica Kernohan for details.



**CECELIA MEMORIAL SIXTH ANNUAL GIVEAWAY** was a big success! Thank you to everyone that donated to help make this event successful. Your contributions helped us help families within our community we care about so deeply. We hope that our community can continue to grow and prosper because of such selfless people like you. Thanks Again!

**ART EXHIBIT** We are pleased to exhibit *RHYTHM AND SHAPE: The Art of Laurin Notheisen*. Lauren Notheisen's art will be on display in the Fellowship Hall from March 28-May 22. Everyone is welcomed to come and enjoy this Spring Exhibit.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be June 8-11 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church. The theme is Wild Wonder. Children will be invited to delight in God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all living things by immersing them in the wonders of the created world. A registration form is now available online for participants. Please scan the QR code to visit link:



If you are interested in volunteering for the 2025 Vacation Bible School, please scan the QR code to visit the link to sign up:



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** Sunday Morning Circle meets the second Sunday in each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor. Circle 9 meets the second Monday in each month at 12:00 noon at a member's home; Tuesday Evening Circle meets the second Tuesday in each month at 7:00 p.m. at Diane Simmons' home; Wednesday Morning Circle meets the second Wednesday in each month at 9:30 a.m. in the 10th Street Parlor. An exact location for Circle 9 meetings will be provided on the church bulletin's calendar and in the 60-second email.

**LAY READERS NEEDED FOR JUNE/JULY** A signup page is online for lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve one Sunday, please scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date. Lay reader information will be emailed on the Friday prior to the date. Thank you!



**NEWSLETTER FOLDERS/SEALERS** A signup page is online for upcoming months for Newsletter folders/sealers. If you are willing to volunteer to help in the office with this task, scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date, contact Robin by phone at 270-843-4707, or email at [info@bgpres.org](mailto:info@bgpres.org).



## WELCOME VISITORS!

*We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by the minister, officers, and congregation.*

**Clerk of Session:** Debbie Trickey    **Treasurer:** Steve Moore

**Elders:** Class of 2025- Karol Kirby Ahmed, Buzz English, Pamela Napier, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; Class of 2026- Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan; Class of 2027-Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden  
**Deacons:** Class of 2025- Barbara Brindle, Craig Long, Teri Polen, Ernie Small, Dan Stelling, Fred Trickey; Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Brianna Trickey; Class of 2027-Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan

### The Presbyterian Church Staff

*Transitional Pastor  
Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director  
Children's Music Director  
Organist  
Financial Administrator  
Treasurer  
Office Coordinator  
Director, Preschool Learning Center  
Custodian  
Clerk of Session  
Sound Attendant/Sunday Sexton*

*Rev. Kyle Otterbein  
Dr. Wayne Pope  
Mrs. Beth Pope  
Dr. Nathaniel Brown  
Mrs. Terry Johnson  
Mr. Steve Moore  
Mrs. Robin Watkins Tolbert  
Ms. Kimberly Watkins  
Mr. Cedric Whitney  
Mrs. Debbie Trickey  
Ms. Laura Parkerson*

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**Donate Online:** The church website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, accepts online donations. Just go to our website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You may also scan this QR code:



### Calendar

#### Sunday, May 18

8:30 a.m. Fellowship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
9:15 a.m. Children's Music  
9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Circle  
9:45 a.m. Godly Play  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
2:00 p.m. Fellowship Picnic

#### Monday, May 19

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love  
5:30 p.m. Christian Ed. Ministry Meeting

#### Tuesday, May 20

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:00 a.m. Special Care  
6:00 p.m. Session Meeting

#### Wednesday, May 21

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group  
8:15 a.m. 2025 Annual  
CPR/Defibrillator Course  
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

#### Friday, May 23

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group

**The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101**

270-843-4707 • [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org)

**Pastor Kyle Otterbein • [kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org](mailto:kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org) • 319-400-6546**