

Order of Worship for Sunday, May 15, 2022 – Live No Lies Series

Sermon By Phone: 814-422-6238 Website: PennsValleyParish.info

For the transformation of the world, we make disciples. We study God's Word and offer praise and worship, strengthening each other for outreach beyond the church walls.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS [Jesus said] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end. I will give water to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life, without cost.

† SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: How wondrous! A new heaven and a new earth!

P: The old, bruised and angered, fearful and alienated, will pass away

L: In its place God will offer new hope and peace

P: God will dwell with God's people forevermore.

L: Worship the Lord who is about to do a new thing.

P: Praise God who establishes God's reign in the heart of God's people. AMEN.

† OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and Loving God, we are grateful that you have called us together this day, drawing us from darkness to the glory of your light. May our spirits rejoice at the good news you have for us today. Open our hearts to your healing love, for we ask this in Christ's Name. AMEN.

† OPENING HYMN O Lord, May Church and Home Combine UMH #695

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE A New Commandment John 13:31-35

JOYS AND CONCERNS - (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Acts 11:1-18 // Revelation 21:1-6

MESSAGE The Honest Truth About Normal

RESPONSE TO THE WORD Psalm 23 Responsively UMH p. 754

† CLOSING HYMN For the Healing of the Nations UMH #428

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 16th is Trinity's Trustees and Ad Board Meeting starting at 7pm. All are welcome.
- May 18th meet Pastor Theresa for coffee at Burkholder's Market at 8:30am.
- May 19th all Ladies are invited to Ladies Coffee and Conversation 9:30am at St. James UMC, Coburn.
- May 21st the Susquehanna Conference Annual Conference Laity and Clergy Sessions will be held online starting at 9am and 10am, respectively, and will be available on susumc.org
- May 22nd PV Cluster Pulpit Swap brings Pastor Deb Dailey from Grace UMC, Centre Hall to our pulpit.
- May 22nd the Penns Valley High School Baccalaureate Service begins at 7:30pm in the Auditorium. Pastor Theresa will serve as liturgist.
- May 25th meet Pastor Theresa for coffee at Streamside Family Restaurant, Spring Mills at 11am.
- Susquehanna Annual Conference at Hershey Lodge June 1-3, watch at susumc.org
- June 2nd all Ladies are invited to Ladies Coffee and Conversation 9:30am at St. James UMC, Coburn
- June 7th meet Pastor Theresa for coffee at The Express in Centre Hall at 11am.
- June 7th Sprucetown's Ad Board and Trustees meet starting at 7pm
- Pastor Theresa will be on vacation June 8-14. Storyteller and Certified Lay Speaker Bob Booz will fill the pulpit.

Pastor Theresa M. Heiser; theiser@susumc.org; 814-883-9510; PO Box 211, Centre Hall 16828

CCLI #11541746 Several elements of today's worship are from Ministry Matters, Feasting on the Word, the United Methodist Book of Worship and The Abingdon Worship Annual. Our series is based on "Live No Lies" by John Mark Comer Waterbook Publishing

THE KEYS TO LIVE NO LIES: Week 3 - The World

Definitions:

The world – a system of ideas, values, morals, practices, and social norms that are integrated into the mainstream and institutionalized in a culture corrupted by the twin sins of rebellion against God and the redefinition of good and evil

Pre-Christian culture – a culture of gods and goddesses

Christianized culture – a cultural moment where the societal norms push you toward a vision that is a mix of Jesus and pagan or secular ideas

Post-Christian culture – a reaction against Christianized culture that attempts to hold on to some core elements of Jesus' vision, while rejecting others, and attempts to bring about the kingdom of God without the King. Utopian trending dystopian.

Hard power – coercive force, such as legal or military force

Soft power – the attempt to control or influence behavior by appealing to people's sensual desires

Creative minority – a small group operating on the margins of society who live together in a thick web of relationships and, through their lives and work, bless the host culture with healing and renewal (see "Evagrius of Pontus")

Key texts to meditate on: John 17 and 1 John 2:15-17

Working theory of the devil's strategy: deceitful ideas that play to disordered desires that are normalized in a sinful society.

Key practice for fighting the world: gathering with your church

Summary: The devil's deceitful ideas get as far as they do because they appeal to our flesh's animal cravings. But these in turn find a home in our bodies through the echo chamber of the world, which allows us to assuage any guilt or shame and live as we please. As a result, evil is often labeled good, and good, evil; and the soul and society devolve into a reign of anarchy via the loss of a moral and spiritual true north. In such an exilic moment, the church as a counter-anti-culture has the potential to not only survive but also flourish as a creative minority, loving the host culture from the margins.