



Holy Week Services at Carmel

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28, 10 AM

Wave your palms from home as we worship live streamed on You Tube from the sanctuary. Anthem ‘The Holy City’ by tenor David Campbell

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:30 PM

Service remembering Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples, live streamed on You Tube, with Communion. The hymns will be led by Evelyn Abraham.

Good Friday, April 2, 7:30 PM

Tenebrae service of shadows, live streamed on You Tube. Music led by David Campbell and Deb Gates. Concludes with “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord,” Deb Gates, soloist

Holy Saturday, April 3, 7:00 PM

Good News: A Virtual Easter Pageant (more information on page 8)

Easter Sunday/Resurrection of the Lord, April 4

8 AM Early service, outdoors in the Memory Garden. In person, masked.

10 AM Worship live streamed on You Tube from the sanctuary, with Communion. Joyfully proclaiming the good news that Jesus Christ is risen! Praising God with special music: Mozart’s “Alleluia from Exsultate, jubilate” by guest soloist Meg Vandegrift. Also, “Alleluia Round,” William Boyce, sung by trio Meg Vandegrift, Melissa Deacon and David Campbell

Carmel Welcomes You Back to In-Person Worship Beginning Sunday, April 11

Here is a quick read of information you need to know as we return to worship:

Re-opening date: April 11, 2021

Attendance limit: 40 members

Please sign COVID waiver in narthex on first visit

Please make an internet reservation on Sign-up Genius by noon each Thursday: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044fa9af2fabfe3-traditional>

This link will also be e-mailed to the congregational e-mail list every Monday. No internet? Call the office, 215-887-1074 by noon each Thursday.

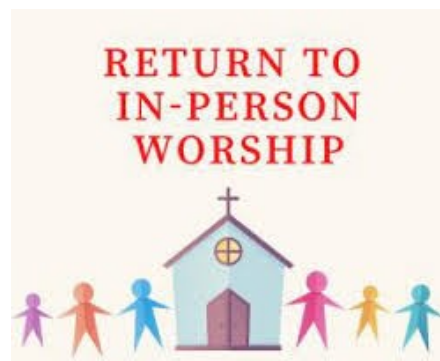
If you prefer to join us from home:

Watch on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJlIDvsRw>

Watch via our website www.presbycarmel.org

No internet? Zoom by phone: 1-929-436-2866. If asked, enter meeting ID 842 851 1409.

See **IN-PERSON WORSHIP** Page 3



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Welcome to Holy Week at Carmel!

Holy Week is soon upon us! As we approach **Holy Week** and the seven-weeklong season of **Easter**, we will remember once again we are **Easter People**—redeemed to rejoice and love God and our neighbors! But first we have to complete the season of Lent—these past 40 days and six Sundays. And so, the journey being able to sing, *Alleluia!* once again continues as we follow Jesus into Jerusalem and the final days of his life prior to the cross and resurrection. Lent has given us much to ponder and remember, and challenged us as we've journeyed with Jesus and his followers these past weeks. To truly be Easter People we must follow Jesus and that's what Palm Sunday and Holy Week are all about!

Now the time has arrived—here's Holy Week!

Palm / Passion Sunday (Holy Week begins) Sunday, March 28, with worship live streaming on YouTube: 10:00 am

Passion / Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world. As this service opens, the crowd waves palm branches, wanting to crown Jesus as king. But as the story of the passion unfolds, their shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion; he receives a crown of thorns as he is handed over to be mocked and killed. Join us as we begin our observance of **Holy Week** by waving our palms as we worship live streamed from the sanctuary and we hear virtually, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Our Anthem will be *The Holy City* sung by tenor David Campbell. Through song and story, in our own voices, we'll search ourselves for the hope of transformation.

Maudy Thursday Evening Worship Thursday, April 1, with worship live streaming on YouTube: 7:30 pm

Maudy Thursday begins the Three Days (or Triduum), remembering the new commandment Jesus gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another, washing our feet as a servant. Derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning *commandment*, **Maudy** refers to the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper: to love with humility by serving one another and to remember his sacrifice. We will keep this promise at our center as we hear it read again from John 13:1-17. Have bread and juice ready as we celebrate the Lord's Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death. Join us online in live streaming worship from the sanctuary and remember Christ's final challenge to his disciples around the table. The hymns this



evening will be led by Evelyn Abraham.

Good Friday Service of Tenebrae Friday, April 2, with worship live streaming on YouTube: 7:30 pm

On this holy eve when we remember Jesus' crucifixion, we observe that too much tragedy and violence still exist in our world. The hours of noon to 3:00 pm are particularly significant as these commemorate the

time Jesus hung on the cross. **Tenebrae** means "shadows", and as we read Matthew's account of the Passion of our Lord, we will experience the growing shadows of sin and this world's darkness gathering around the cross. The **Tenebrae Service** will be live streamed from the sanctuary with music led by David Campbell and Deb Gates, concluding with the traditional, "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord," with Deb Gates, soloist. It is an especially important time to pray for the church and the world for whom Christ gave his life.

Virtual Easter Pageant

Saturday, April 3, with the pageant live streaming on Facebook Live and Zoom at 7:00 pm.

The Virtual Christmas Pageant was well received, and we are introducing an **Intergenerational Virtual Easter Pageant** this year!

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Day: Sunday, April 4

~ **Easter "Sunrise" Early Service, in-person, outdoors in the Memory Garden: Masked & socially distanced: 8:00 am**

~ **Easter Sunday Service, with worship live streaming from the sanctuary with Holy Communion on YouTube: 10:00 am**

The festival of the **Resurrection of the Lord** (or **Easter Sunday**) is the center of the Christian year. On this occasion the global church joyfully proclaims the good news that is at the very heart of the gospel: That Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. We will celebrate the awesome power of resurrection with an in-person celebration at 8:00 am in the Memory Garden and at 10:00 am, worship live streaming from the sanctuary. We will relish in the wonder of singing, *Alleluia*, once again as we offer our praise to God with special music: Mozart's *Alleluia from Exsultate, jubilate* by guest soloist Meg Vandegrift. Also, *Alleluia Round*, by William Boyce, will be sung by the trio Meg Vandegrift, Melissa Deacon and David Campbell. Join us on YouTube to celebrate the new life

HOLY WEEK from Page 2

and eternal life Christ offers us in love.

Second Sunday after Easter

Sunday, April 11, with both in-person worship in the sanctuary and live streaming worship from the sanctuary on YouTube: 10:00 am.

Session has approved “**in-person worship**” in the Carmel sanctuary beginning Sunday, April 11. Worship in the sanctuary is **limited** to 40 worshippers and one must sign up in advance online. All worshippers will need to **wear masks** from the time they leave their cars to the time they return to their cars and be **socially distanced**. Greeters and ushers will guide you to **specialty marked pews**. Please watch for the churchwide mailing soon to arrive with “Guidelines for In-Person Worship”!

—*Pastor Peter*

IN-PERSON WORSHIP From Page 1

Keep
Carmel
Safe

COVID guidelines

- Feeling sick with COVID symptoms? Please stay home
- If you develop symptoms after worship, call the office
- Enter from the lobby entrance only
- Mask, sanitize, and social distance at all times
- Family units may sit together, singles sit six feet apart, rows are marked and staggered
- No children’s services or activity packets
- Passing of the peace – stand in place and wave or show peace sign
- Stand for hymns but do not sing
- Usual communion schedule, pre-packaged elements or bring your own
- Dismissal by ushers by rows
- Use only the rest rooms near the Lounge

Carmel Families Helping Neighbors

Refuge/Oasis families and leaders have been busy with a service project to create homemade spring and Easter well wishes cards for the residents and staff at Carmel’s neighbor, Edge Hill Nursing Home. The project is coordinated by Sarah Stein of the Christian Education Committee. The original card project was conceived and carried out by Kristin Waldner and her son Gregory Gerhard at Christmas time, with help from the Stein family.

The Edge Hill staff indicated that the atmosphere for residents of the nursing home had been very lonely due to Covid restrictions, and everyone was very thankful for this caring gesture at Christmas time.

Since it is not yet safe or easy to all craft together, Carmel families created at home and returned their home-made cards to a church drop off collection point. --*Janet Simon, Christian Education Committee*

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

**Note from Carmel’s Shepherds**

Spring has sprung! Vaccines are improving as we wait for our beautiful church to open the doors! The flowers on Sundays give us hope for returning to our normal routines. We are still looking for two more members to call us and join our board. Please come aboard to serve with us! Give us a call.

Melissa Keller 215-887-1446 or Beth Cherry 215-460-5594, Co-Chairs.

We are also in need of tall, empty and cleaned juice cans for our flower deliveries. Please drop them off in the church office. Thank you!

—*Melissa Keller and Beth Cherry*





Session Notes

The following items were among the reports and business conducted during the Regular March Meeting of Session.

The biggest business item for Session in March was the decision to reopen the Sanctuary for worship. After over a year of shut-down Session approved to resume weekly worship service in the Sanctuary starting Sunday April 11, 2021 under the church reopening guidelines that were prepared by the Church Reopening Task Force. The weekly maximum number of congregational members allowed to worship in person is 40, by reservation only, plus 10 worship participants. The guidelines, procedures and reservation instructions will be sent to Carmel members by email and regular mail. Session is very thankful for the work and time the task force devoted to making sure Carmel can reopen safely and within CDC guidelines.

Session approved the update to two church policies – the Policy on Sexual Misconduct and the Policy and Procedures for Counting Offering.

Congregational Life plans to hold a Mother's Day "Coffee Hour to Go" on Sunday, May 9, 2021 following worship.

The dates for Vacation Bible School were approved for Sunday, July 25 through Thursday, July 29, 2021.

In the coming weeks watch your email or regular mail for more information on the planned activities.

—Nancy Pinkowicz, Clerk of Session



LIVE STREAMING: We need your help live-streaming Sunday morning worship! We currently only have two volunteers who facilitate the livestream every week. We will be happy to train! Please contact Gary Moll at 215-264-0221 or e-mail garylmoll@yahoo.com

— Gary Moll

SING FOR JOY!



Please let Abby know if you are interested in helping with the music on Sunday mornings. Abby is willing to help you pick a song to sing and rehearse it. Singers are used each Sunday morning to help lead the hymns and sing at the offertory. If this is something you have been thinking about trying please contact Abby at the church.

—Abby Palmisano

*"Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains!
For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones."
Isaiah 49:13*



Hello and Joyous greetings from your Deacons! We hope you have been enjoying the promise of renewal that comes with the first breaths of Spring, and the hope that comes with it. This year, it seems even more exciting to see the first flowers peeking up from unlikely places, and the bird songs seem louder and more urgent than I can ever recall. If you are struggling with finding joy, hope, or comfort, please reach out. We are here to help, be it with an open ear, a warm meal, or a friendly FaceTime smile.

On the horizon will be the next **Caring For Friends cook-in**. It will be run in the same fashion as the summer event, with a goal of over 140 meals. Food essentials will be packed ahead of time, prepared at home, and brought back to the church for distribution. Please stay tuned for more information!

We are still looking for registrants for the below programs- please reach out if you have any interest!
CALLING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS! Please reach out to the Deacons (ampm611@gmail.com) for a special treat! Just let us know your name, email, and mailing information... goodies to follow!

Mealtime Love

Are you a Carmel family with school-age children? Would you like a prepared family meal? Our Deacons are here for you! Email Joyce Kornfeld jkkornfeld@comcast.net and say 'yes'. Also include any family food allergies and a preferred night of the week.

Carmel Buddies

Hi Carmel Seniors! Are you spending a lot of time at home and missing your human connections? Deacons would like to connect you with our youth through a new pen pal program. We'll even supply the note cards and stamps. Want to join us? Email Joyce Kornfeld jkkornfeld@comcast.net (or call 215-884-9314) with your name, address and your top 3 interests.

As always, if you are in need of Deacon support or are interested in becoming a deacon, please reach out to me ampmp611@gmail.com or Pastor Ashley at pastorash80@gmail.com. God Bless!

—Abigail Clayton



From the Transitional Pastor's Study

Our Easter Challenge: "Live the Resurrection!"

Dear Friends:

Let's journey through **Holy Week** together and on **Easter Day** shout: "Live the Resurrection!"

As I write this pastoral note just shy of **Palm Sunday** as **Holy Week** begins, the **Day of Resurrection – Easter Day** – is just around the corner!

For us, the **Resurrection** means many things. Paul writes: "Death is swallowed up in victory" (*1 Corinthians 15:54*). Belief in Jesus' Resurrection is paramount in both our personal lives *and* as we live out our shared ministry. Paul affirms both our belief in new life now and eventually the eternal life – which means victory through Jesus Christ. As we emerge from the shadows of the **Lenten Season**, the Easter sunrise exchanges our somewhat dim Lenten reflections into bright renewed new-life and hope: both individually in our lives and as a faith community looking ahead to a **new reality** post-pandemic.

So, what does **Resurrection** mean for us? How are we changed and empowered to serve God in faith-filled ways?

Resurrection means **God's help**. As I said this past Sunday, we're **not** alone. We have life; we have hope. Yes, we experience loss—whether our loss is a family member, a loved one, or some other equally powerful loss in our life—many of us have gone through and continue to go through the **Stages of Grief**. John Bowlby offers three stages in grief: (1) sadness and anger, (2) disorganization and depression, and (3) reorganization. Our faith in Jesus' Resurrection offers life and hope as God nudges us forward toward promised wholeness. A fullness that comes from access to **God's healing power through Jesus**, who has authority over all life and who promises us his continuing presence.

Resurrection means **new purpose**.

In the coming weeks and months, we enter into the **Vital Congregations Initiative** with other congregations in our Presbytery. We enter this initiative as a part of our **Transitional Ministry Mission Study**—seeking who we have been, who we are, and who God desires we become as we seek a new pastor. Through sermons, Bible studies and small and larger group conversations, we will ask these questions of each of the marks of vitality in a congregation. I believe the strength and promise of the **Vital Congregations Initiative** is that—in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and changes it has brought and brings to our church life in community—we are able to discern what God wants us to do now—in our New Reality—and also prepare the **Mission Direction** to live in when the new pastor is called.

Here are those vital marks of a vital congregation:

- **Caring Relationships**
- **Intentional Authentic Evangelism**
- **Spirit-Inspired Worship**
- **Ecclesial Health**
- **Lifelong Discipleship Formation**
- **Outward Incarnational Focus**
- **Empower Servant Leadership**

As **Resurrection People** we discover renewed energy to re-build and strengthen our faith community and our ministries—now and into our future. We discern signs of life and hope; we reach beyond ourselves and shape our present and our future that is not yet here, and that is **okay** for now... Because the Resurrection offers us new purpose as we experience now the **fullness of life in Jesus and Jesus' calling for our future**. We are assured that loving relationships and concerned, committed lives are of enduring importance.

Resurrection also means **affirmation**. **Resurrection** means God loves each **one** of us as well as **all** of us together as a congregation. Our challenge is to do the same! For some of us, we are just beginning to discover our personal gifts and how they relate to our new life and personal ministries in the **New Reality**. For others, we live out our hope as we continue to invite family members and friends to be part of what God is doing here at Carmel. **Resurrection** is a sign of **liberation from the past, sin and death**. While the word victorious may seem too triumphant—especially in light of pandemic losses—the **Resurrection** nevertheless means we can feel victorious in our faith and be hopeful for our future—now and longer term.

Friends, my hope and prayer is for **Easter's Joy** to permeate through our lives, our faith community, and into our **Mission Study** that will directly lead into electing the **Pastor Nominating Committee** and the joy of our **New Pastor's Arrival**—roughly **shy of a year from now**. **Easter Joy** is ours most emphatically when we journey through **Holy Week**, fully embracing Jesus' own journey and his **Cross** that brings the promise of our joy! May **Easter Day** this year be a continuing celebration of Jesus' helping, saving presence known through our life and in our hope and by our love!

Happy Easter—and, may you live the power of the Resurrection!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Peter



Carmel Nursery School News



We are so happy to be back in school. We officially opened our doors to students on March 1st. We have a small group coming on Mondays and Tuesdays and another small group coming on Thursdays and Fridays. We are following all the recommended health and safety guidelines and so far, things have been great. There is laughter and noise coming through our masks! We can even see smiles in the children's eyes.

In April, Carmel students learn some very interesting things about farm animals, insects, and Earth Day. We will focus our themes on the works of author and poet, Shel Silverstein.

We would like to put a few things on our wish list this month. We need crayons, markers, construction paper, Lysol, doll house furniture, doll house people, matchbox cars, action figures, and big wheels! We also need a microwave.

Before long, summer camp will be here. This summer our themes are Pirates and Princesses, The Circus, Dinosaurs, USA, Mad Scientist, Underwater, and Outer Space. The children will create and play and read about dinosaur bones, aliens, planets, clowns, sea life, pirate treasures and much more as we go through the summer.

Registration is underway for the fall. Carmel Nursery School offers programs for children aged two years 7 months to five. Each program is geared toward that age group while catering to the needs of the individual child. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in any of the programs that Carmel has to offer, call the nursery school office at 215-886-7677. Better yet, schedule a tour and see why amazing things happen here!

—Leslie Arrowsmith



Mark Your Calendar!

Carmel's VBS—July 25-29

Compassion Camp 2: Changing the World with Lovingkindness

More details coming soon!

Carmel's 2020-2021 Confirmands

Carmel's 2020-2021 Confirmands, **Audrey Abraham** and **Jillian Morton**, were publicly received as Carmel members at the March 7 worship service. They had completed the confirmation course of study begun in Fall, 2019 and presented their statements of faith to Session in January.

Audrey's mentor was **Taylor Tolton-Kain** and Jillian's was **Joyce Kornfeld**. Audrey is the daughter of **Denise Abraham and Damian Abraham** and Jillian's parents are **Michael and Christine Morton**. Congratulations to our newest Carmel members!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Harry Hurlburt, who will turn 91 on April 4th and **Joyce Young**, who will turn 90 on April 29th. Enjoy your days!



Welcome Baby!

Congratulations to **Tyler and Cassandra Moll** on the birth of their baby girl, **Avery Joan Moll**. Avery is the grand-daughter of **Gary and Carol Moll**.



In Loving Memory

Longtime Carmel member **Jean Oberholtzer** joined the church triumphant on February 28. Jean participated in the Carmel Presbyterian Women's daytime circle in recent years and had earlier served as a Trustee. Please remember her daughters Jeanne, Anita and Susan, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as they mourn her loss.



The Coulter Family would just like to thank everyone who has been uplifting Matt in prayer over the past five months. He is slowly recovering from the accident, but he still has a very long way to go. We are so grateful to all of the doctors, nurses, therapists, and everyone who has helped care for Matt along the way. We especially thank all of you for your kind words, beautiful cards, and phone calls expressing your love while we continue to support Matt on his recovery journey. Thank you also to Beth Cherry for delivering flowers to my house. They were beautiful! Thanks, Beth! We have a wonderful church family, and we are so grateful to all of you.

~ Lynne Coulter



Thank you for the beautiful flowers from the worship service that Ruth Kucera delivered to me. I really did not expect them. They certainly made me feel welcome home.

~ Anne Newman



Thank you for the beautiful flowers that were delivered by Melissa Keller, and also for the letter of love and encouragement. It is wonderful to know that we have our church family to help in so many ways. We so appreciate it!

~ The Heintz Family



Les and I are so blessed and truly grateful for your magnanimous assistance that will enable us to repatriate to South Africa in April. This is such a bittersweet farewell, as our appreciation is tinged with so much sadness as we say goodbye to all our Carmel friends who welcomed us and extended loving kindness towards us the past three years. In particular, we would like to thank both Pastor Peter and Pastor Ashley, Karen Bogle, and Dick and Mary Ellen Thomas for being Good Samaritans. We were prayerfully mentored, encouraged and uplifted by sound spiritual guidance and practical assistance. Thank you so much!
Yours in Christ-

~Les and Bev Mitchell

Prayers for Recovery

Please keep the following Carmel members in your prayers as they continue their recovery:

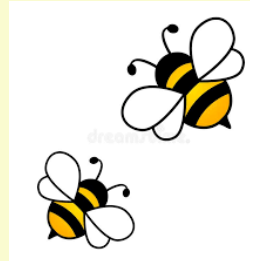


Matt Coulter
Leslie Donaghy
Michael Hausher, Sr.
Anne Newman

Stewardship

Monarch butterflies are endangered in our world. One of their favorite foods is milkweed. Environmentalists encourage us to plant milkweed to keep these beautiful creatures healthy in our world - yet 64 pesticides have been found in milkweed.

We have been informed for years that bees are important to our food system. They pollinate trees and other plants so that our fruits and vegetables can grow abundantly. Many of us use pesticides to keep weeds away from our gardens. It has been found that glyphosate, an ingredient in Roundup harms 93% of endangered species.



“God said, ‘I give you every seed bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it.’ ... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” Genesis 1:29, 31(NIV) Please help us care for God’s creation safely.

—Anne Newman

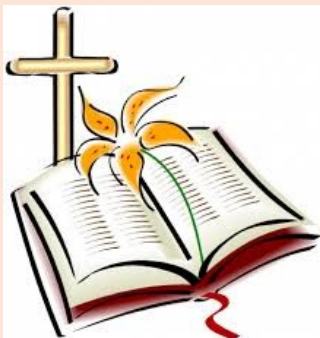
Caring for God’s Creation



Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!

Happy
EASTER





Lectionary

April 1—Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4(5-10) 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 2 — Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 *or* Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

April 4 — Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Acts 10:34-43 *or* Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *or* Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 *or* Mark 16:1-8

April 11 — Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

April 18 — Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

April 25 — Fourth of Sunday

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Good News: A Virtual Easter Pageant Saturday, April 3, 7:00 PM



View Carmel's intergenerational actors in a cast of 25 on Facebook Live or a Zoom link sent to members. Journey through some of Jesus' life and ministry, the despair of his death, and then to the good News of the resurrection. In the end, death was not the end of Jesus. His message of love and justice gives us hope. **Bad news, tragedy, and sorrow do not have the final word!**

Believing In

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe *in* his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief *in* the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."

(Adapted from *Newsletter Newsletter*)



Early on the first day of the week ... Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

John 20:1, NRSV