

**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH**  
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY  
**WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND**  
**UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE**

**April 16, 2023**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Britney Kumchu

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**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME**

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PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“The Day of Resurrection”

GTG #233

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad  
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God  
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free  
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light  
And listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain  
His own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin  
The round world keep high triumph and all that is therein  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend  
For Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Adapted from Psalm 16 NRSVUE by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2022*

Protect us, O God, for in you we take refuge;

**Let us say to God, “You are our Lord; we have no good apart from you.”**

Today, we come to worship God in truth and turn away from worshipping the idols all around us.

**God delights in our sincere worship, but sorrow visits those who give their worship to idols.**

We bless the Lord who gives counsel, who instructs our hearts in the secret of the night.

**We keep the Lord always before us so that we shall not be moved from God’s ways.**

Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest secure,

**Because God keeps us from destruction in this life and the next.**

God shows us the path of life,

**And in God’s presence is the fullness of joy forevermore.**

And so, we say to God,

**“You are our Lord; we have no good apart from you.” Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER

*Adapted from "An Easter Prayer" written by Fr. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, offered at the fourth annual White House Easter Prayer Breakfast on April 8, 2013.*

**Good and gracious God, our most glorious Creator, as we greet the signs in nature around us: of Spring once again regaling us in bloom, in the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted, we give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.**

**The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality. For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason, light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death. As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us, by imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the least among us as we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet. We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING	1 Peter 1:3 – 9	
ANTHEM	"Easter Medley"	(Middle Church NYC virtual choir; video)
SCRIPTURE READING	John 20:19 – 31	
TIME WITH CHILDREN	Believe It or Not!	Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan
MESSAGE	<b>"FEAR AND FAITH"</b>	Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan
OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION		

### "How Firm a Foundation"

GTG #463

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!

## CALL TO GENEROSITY

Holy and loving God, you treat us not like the stern disciplinarian but like the forgiving parent who runs to embrace us when we've rebelled or disappointed. Your mercy gives us the opportunities to try again, to return into your grace, to pick ourselves up and brush ourselves off. You forget how many strikes we have against us but invite us back into the inheritance you desire for us. May our offering this day reflect our gratitude. In Christ, we pray.

## CLOSING SONG

“Thine Is the Glory”

GTG #238

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away  
Kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay

***Refrain:***

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing  
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting

***Refrain***

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife  
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above

***Refrain***

## BENEDICTION

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2022.*

May you go forth carrying the joy that is yours as a child of God and an heir to resurrection life through Jesus Christ. May that joy fill you up and fuel your journey as we ask in the wake of the resurrection, “What now?” Amen.

## POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer  
accompanist

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*Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible*

## **1 Peter 1:3 – 9**

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1:4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

1:5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1:6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,

1:7 so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1:8 Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

1:9 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls..

## **John 20:19 – 31**

20:19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

20:20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

20:22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

20:24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

20:25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

20:26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

20:28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

20:29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

20:31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

