
APRIL 22, 2018 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10:30 AM

GATHERING

Prelude

Church Bell

✠Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Pastor: We are a people who have been called to a great task by our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: We are God's holy Church, and God has commissioned us to go to all people to make them disciples.

Pastor: Our goal is to convince them of God's love, baptize them into the Christian faith, and teach them to live a Christian life.

People: We strive forward toward that goal because we know our Lord is with us all the time. Even until the end of the age!

✠Hymn of Praise "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" UMH 117

✠Opening Prayer (*Unison*)

**Renew Your church, O Lord, as well as the people in this land.
Save us from cheap words and self-deception in Your service.
In the power of Your Holy Spirit transform us, and shape us by
Your cross. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Lesson	Romans 12:9-21	
Act of Psalm	Psalm 66:8-20	
Sacred Music	"Yes, Lord" Pepper Choplin	Chancel Choir
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 28:16-20	
	L: The Word of God for the people of God. P: Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	<i>An Issue of Focus</i>	Rev. Dennis Keen

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

✠Hymn of Response "Be Thou My Vision" UMH 451

✠Affirmation of Faith (*Responsive*)

Let us affirm our Easter faith in the words of Saint Paul:

**I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life –
in the world as it is or the world as it shall be,
in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths –
nothing in all creation that can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer Concerns and Joys

Gathered Prayer

Lord, gather up the thoughts that have passed through our minds during these moments of silent prayer. You know the thoughts of our hearts and those that are on our minds. Faithful God...**Hear our prayer.**

Do You find us worried? Do our thoughts hover over personal concerns? Over a quarrel we have had with our spouse or family member? A conflict at work? Worry over paying the bills? Questions about health and our health insurance? Faithful God...**Hear our prayer.**

These then are the concerns that are important to us right now. And You taught us to bring everything to You in prayer. We have brought these immediate concerns. Please answer our heartfelt prayers. Faithful God...**Hear our prayer.**

But Lord, we need to expand the circle of our concern. Hear our prayers of intercession: for members who are absent from worship today, for neighbors who have lost faith and trust in You, for those who feel the pain of loss due to a death in the family, for the one who is sick of life, and for the one who acts happy on the outside but is crying on the inside. Faithful God...**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, at times, we can be insensitive. But we don't want to be. So many things are happening and it's hard to feel for others and to minister to them. In this hour, lift our hearts again through the inspiration of worship, that we can care again, and go away with new strength to minister to those who come in contact with us this coming week, who are in need. Make us mediators of Your healing love and grace this week. Faithful God...**Hear our prayer.**

Now, without mentioning specifics, you may call out the names or situations that are in need of God's saving, healing, and comforting grace. Faithful God...**Hear our prayer.**

Now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us repeat the prayer that Jesus taught to all his disciples. **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

✠ **The Peace** (*Please share the peace of God with those near you.*)
L: The peace of Christ be always with you. **R: And also with you.**

Offering

Offertory

✠ **Doxology** (*Unison*) UMH 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

✠ **Prayer of Gratitude** (*Unison*)

**God, we offer ourselves to you
our hearts and hands, our minds and money.
Take us and teach us the lessons of love that we may do justly,
love each other as Christ loves us,
see the beauty of your creation in our brothers and sisters,
into the fullness of peace and joy upon the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

✠ **Closing Hymn** “The Church’s One Foundation” (vv. 1-4) UMH 545

✠ **Benediction & Sending Forth**

✠ **Choral Response** “The Church’s One Foundation” (v. 5) UMH 545

**Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**

✠ **Postlude**

✠ Please stand or remain seated.

PLEASE SEE BULLETIN INSERT FOR REV. DENNIS G. KEEN BIO

OUR HYMNALS

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS = The Faith We Sing

W&S = Worship & Song