

*Your Friendly  
Community Church*



**April 23, 2023**

***Third Sunday  
of Easter***

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tiffany Phillips

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come! Lift your voices to the Lord who always hears us.

**People: Listen, Lord. Hear our voices sing your praises.**

Leader: Call on the Lord who bends low to hear us.

**People: Listen, Lord. We lift our voices to you in praise.**

Leader: Call on the name of the Lord, all people.

**People: Listen, Lord. We call on your wonderful name. For you saved us, you raised us and turned our lives around. Let your name be praised in this congregation.**

**\*HYMN**      "Blessed Assurance"      **UMH #369**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Gracious God, you have given yourself to us in the person of Jesus. We have his example of loving ministry as a guide for our lives. We stand as people forgiven and reconciled to you. Be with us this day. Remind us that you are always near. Guide our lives. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Diane Horn

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

**\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, you are the way, the truth, and the life. By the power of your Holy Spirit speak your word to us that we might know you more deeply and love you more faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**\*OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

**OT #533**

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

**SERMON**

Rev. Meegian Gossard

"Loosening the Bonds"

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**UMH #880**

*"The Nicene Creed"*

### **PRAYER**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

**Ladies' Ensemble**

*"He Is Forever"*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH #95**

## WE GO WITH GOD INTO THE WORLD

**\*HYMN**

**UMH #133**

*"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*AMEN RESPONSE**

*"Let the Church Say Amen"*

**\*POSTLUDE**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We welcome you to our worship service this morning. If you are visiting, please complete a visitor's card located in your pew and place it in the offering plate.

Our first discernment listening session will be on Thursday, April 27, at 6:30 pm in the CLC. We will be discussing "What is discernment?"

On Saturday, May 6, from 10 am – 2 pm, the Columbia District will be having a prayer retreat at Mt. Hebron UMC. Lunch will be provided, and there is no cost to register. You may register online or in person.

We are looking for volunteers to help with children's moment during worship. If you are interested, please contact Diane Horn.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 25

6:30 Worship - ZOOM

Wednesday, April 26

5:45 Choir Practice – Choir Room

Thursday, April 27 – CLC

6:30 Discernment Listening Session

## SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION

You are welcomed to attend one of our Sunday School classes:

**Crossroads SS Class** meets via Zoom at 9am  
Contact L.W. Smith for Zoom invite.

**Pathfinder SS Class** meets at 9:45 am in the  
parlor in the Education Building.

**Children's SS Class** meets at 9:45 am in the  
nursery in the Education building.

## HEARING DEVICES

If you would like to use a hearing assistance device, please see an usher for assistance.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please write your prayer requests in the book found on the podium located at the back of the sanctuary before the service begins. Pastor Meegian will lift them up for prayer during worship.

## 2023 FINANCES

**2023 Budget = \$229,008.00**

**Need to Receive Weekly = \$4,404.00**

**Received for General Budget on 04/16/23 = \$8,253.00**

**Received Year-To-Date (2023) = \$54,458.00**

We are excited to have you in our worship service today. We love that the walls of our building do not limit the impact of our ministry and have a wonderful community joining us today virtually. As such, we would like to remind all in attendance that your presence in our worship service indicates your approval that you and all minors you represent being recorded for our digital usage. This includes, but is not limited to, your image, name, and involvements in today's services.