



**April 23, 2023
Third Sunday of Easter**

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Staff Parish Pastoral Announcement

Michelle McCann, SPR Chair

Prelude

The Garden of Prayer

Broughton

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Call to Worship

Patti Barnes

In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe, in ordinary days of work and play:

in every moment, God is with us.

Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud, or standing on faith's shoreline:

in every place, God is with us.

In those who teach us and those who trouble us; in those who surprise us,
and those who forgive us:

in every person, God is with us.

Opening Prayer

All Praying

Patti Barnes

Gracious Lord, how shall we do your will today? Will it be in acts of praise, in gifts shared, in prayers lifted? Who will you lead us to serve? Help us trust you. Help us listen. Bless this community as we come together in worship. Encourage us, comfort us, unite us, make our joy complete. Amen.

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

UMH 110

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Passing the Peace of Christ

Patti Barnes

As Christ Jesus has shared his peace with each of us, let us now share that peace with each other. Peace be with you.

And also with you.

The Act of Confession

Sandy Bruner

Called to follow Christ, we are called to a life of humility.
But what does that even mean?

Do we seek to exalt ourselves – to be lifted above others?
Does our sense of success depend on someone else's failure?
Does our love of God entirely guide our relationships?
Do we twist service into convenience and leisure,
ignoring the idea that to serve is to be a servant?
Silence

Let us pray:

Disturb the habits of our sin, O God.

Rouse us from the sleep that cradles sin's embrace.

In the name of Jesus, we pray –

Show us your ways. Highlight what we can change,

and change what we cannot.

Silence

Good friends: God is at work in you! God is alive in us!

God lives – but sin is dead. And our sins are forgiven, through Christ, our Savior.

Ministry of Music

Spring Carol

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Patti Barnes

Speak to us, Lord, through these scriptures. Remind us again of your everlasting power. May we know your story and our place within it. May we remember your mighty works and deeds, that we might know that you are the God of all ages. May we claim your promise and share your love. We are listening, Lord; speak to us today.

First Lesson

Exodus 14:1-14 (NLT)

Patti Barnes

14 Then the LORD gave these instructions to Moses: ² “Order the Israelites to turn back and camp by Pi-hahiroth between Migdol and the sea. Camp there along the shore, across from Baal-zephon. ³ Then Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are confused. They are trapped in

the wilderness!’ ⁴ And once again I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will chase after you. I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh and his whole army. After this the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD!” So the Israelites camped there as they were told.

The Egyptians Pursue Israel

⁵ When word reached the king of Egypt that the Israelites had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds. “What have we done, letting all those Israelite slaves get away?” they asked. ⁶ So Pharaoh harnessed his chariot and called up his troops. ⁷ He took with him 600 of Egypt’s best chariots, along with the rest of the chariots of Egypt, each with its commander. ⁸ The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, so he chased after the people of Israel, who had left with fists raised in defiance. ⁹ The Egyptians chased after them with all the forces in Pharaoh’s army—all his horses and chariots, his charioteers, and his troops. The Egyptians caught up with the people of Israel as they were camped beside the shore near Pi-hahiroth, across from Baal-zephon.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the LORD, ¹¹ and they said to Moses, “Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren’t there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt? ¹² Didn’t we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, ‘Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It’s better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!’”

¹³ But Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid. Just stand still and watch the LORD rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. ¹⁴ The LORD himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.”

Second Lesson

Philippians 2:12-16 (NLT)

Patti Barnes

Shine Brightly for Christ

¹² Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

¹⁴ Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵ so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. ¹⁶ Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ’s return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.

Sermon

Times of Transition

Steve Evick

Preparation for Prayer

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Sweet Hour of Prayer

UMH 496

Morning Prayer

Sandy Bruner

The Lord's Prayer

Sandy Bruner

Shining Brightly into the Future

Endowment Committee

A report of the Harmony UMC Endowment Fund

Offertory Invitation

Patti Barnes

Let our eyes be open to the possibilities held in this community. We share prayer, song, and stories. We break bread and serve as companions for life's journey. We are invited and encouraged to share our financial gifts, knowing that God's work with and for us is never done. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Happy Are They That Walk With the Lord

Gawthrop

**Doxology Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

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 Dedication*

All Praying

Patti Barnes

God of abundance, you fill us with good things; you satisfy our thirst; you meet our every need. From your rock, our blessings flow. Accept what we give in return: our hearts, our hands, our gifts, our love. Use them to answer the cries of a world in need. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Hymn

Standing on the Promises

UMH 374

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Benediction

Steve Evick

As we leave this place...

May the Lord grant us his power and discernment in the midst of uncertainty,

May the Lord help us to be honest with ourselves,

admitting we need the mercy and grace that He alone provides,
May the Lord help us to forgive and be forgiven,
And to have a practice of humility and a sense of his priority,
so that we may say as we accept this transition that is before us,
May God's will be done, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit...Amen.

Choral Benediction

He Lives

*He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives?
He lives within my heart.*

Postlude

Glorify Thy Name

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours,
thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.*

Sweet Hour of Prayer

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

Standing on the Promises

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.*

Refrain:

***Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.***

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]*

*Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]*

*Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]*