



**June 9, 2024  
Graduation Sunday**

**GATHERING AND PRAISE**

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*From the Rising of the Sun*

Anon

*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**

Meghan Walker

In this family of faith,  
we have a place where we will always belong.

**Here we find friends who will love us  
as children of the Most High.**

In this house of God,  
we worship a King who rules with equity.

**Here we follow One whose steadfast love  
endures forever.**

Whoever you are and wherever you are  
on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Opening Prayer**

Meghan Walker

Sovereign God, come to us when we lose our way.  
For we need you to be our King—  
to lead us on right paths,  
teach us the ways of life and death,  
and shelter us from our foes.  
We need you to be our comforter—  
to love us as a father,  
nurture us as a mother,  
shelter us as a brother,  
and assure us as a sister.  
Welcome us into the arms of your mercy, O God,  
and we will be your people,  
even as you are our God and King. Amen.

**Hymn**

*There's Within My Heart a Melody*

UMH 380

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**Passing the Peace of Christ**

Meghan Walker

As the family of God, let us share signs of familial love as we pass the peace of Christ.

**Children's Message**

Pastor Larry

**Celebrating our Graduates**

*Today we honor the achievements of students whose families are part of our faith community.*

Georgina Atkinson, graduate of Univ of South Carolina, School of Medicine  
Joseph Cotsimopoulos, graduate of Riverside HS, will be attending Old Dominion Univ  
Will Frankovich, graduate of Virginia Tech, Computational Modeling and Data Analytics  
Alexandra Krens, graduate of Virginia Tech, Master of Education; Clinical Mental Health  
Nathan McCann, graduate of Loudoun Valley HS, will be attending Univ of So. Carolina  
Ian Rob ert, graduate of James Madison Univ., Bachelor of Business Administration

**Ministry of Music**

*The Prelude*

Abigail Winn

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**Prayer for Understanding**

*All Praying*

Meghan Walker

**Scripture proclaims: "I believed, and so I spoke." As the words of our faith are spoken this day, listen for the word of God.**

## **Scripture Reading**

*Acts 5:17-32*

<sup>17</sup> Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. <sup>18</sup> They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. <sup>19</sup> But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. <sup>20</sup> “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

<sup>21</sup> At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. <sup>22</sup> But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, <sup>23</sup> “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” <sup>24</sup> On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

<sup>25</sup> Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” <sup>26</sup> At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

<sup>27</sup> The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. <sup>28</sup> “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

## **Hymn**

*He Touched Me*

UMH 367

## **Sermon**

*“This is the Life”*

Pastor Larry

## **Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;\*  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\*\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

UMH 70

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Larry

**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.**

**Offertory Invitation**

Meghan Walker

**As brothers and sisters of Christ, let us give joyfully from our bounty, that all God's family may find hope and strength through the blessings we share this day.**

**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

*Offertory*                      *Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Ritter

*\*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***

Meghan Walker

**Holy Sovereign, you are our King  
and we are your people.**

**As we reach for our brothers and sisters in Christ,  
and our mothers and fathers in faith,  
use these offerings to heal our world**

and draw all people into your holy family.  
Amen.

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE

### \*Hymn

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*The Lily of the Valley*

TFWS 2062

### \*Benediction

Pastor Larry

### \*Choral Benediction

*Spirit of the living God,*

*Fall afresh on me.*

*Spirit of the living God,*

*Fall afresh on me.*

*Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*

*Spirit of the living God,*

*Fall afresh on me.*

*Spirit of the Living God*

UMH 393

### Postlude

*Lead Me, Lord*

Ashford

## **THERE'S WITHIN MY HEART A MELODY**

*There's within my heart a melody  
Jesus whispers sweet and low:  
Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still,  
in all of life's ebb and flow.*

### **Refrain:**

***Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,  
sweetest name I know,  
fills my every longing,  
keeps me singing as I go.***

*2. All my life was wrecked by sin and strife,  
discord filled my heart with pain;  
Jesus swept across the broken strings,  
stirred the slumbering chords again. [Refrain]*

*3. Though sometimes he leads through waters deep,  
trials fall across the way,  
though sometimes the path seems rough and steep,  
see his footprints all the way. [Refrain]*

*4. Feasting on the riches of his grace,  
resting neath his sheltering wing,  
always looking on his smiling face,  
that is why I shout and sing. [Refrain]*

*5. Soon he's coming back to welcome me  
far beyond the starry sky;  
I shall wing my flight to worlds unknown;  
I shall reign with him on high. [Refrain]*

**HE TOUCHED ME**

*Shackled by a heavy burden,  
Neath a load of guilt and shame,  
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,  
And now I am no longer the same.*

**Refrain**

***He touched me, O he touched me,  
And O the joy that floods my soul!  
Something happened, and now I know,  
He touched me and made me whole.***

*Since I met this blessed Savior,  
Since he cleansed and made me whole,  
I will never cease to praise him;  
I'll shout it while eternity rolls. **Refrain***

## **THE LILY OF THE VALLEY**

*I have found a friend in Jesus, he's everything to me,  
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;  
the Lily of the Valley, in him alone I see  
all I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.  
In sorrow he's my comfort, in trouble he's my stay,  
he tells me every care on him to roll.  
He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and Morning Star,  
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

*2 He all my grief has taken, and all my sorrows borne;  
in temptation he's my strong and mighty tower;  
I have all for him forsaken, and all my idols torn  
from my heart, and now he keeps me by his power.  
Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempts me sore,  
Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal.  
He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and Morning Star,  
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

*3 He will never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,  
while I live by faith and do his blessed will;  
a wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,  
with his manna he my hungry soul shall fill.  
Then sweeping up to glory, to see his blessed face,  
where rivers of delight shall ever roll.  
He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and Morning Star,  
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*