

# LAUREL HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 18, 2021  
Third Sunday of Easter



## Welcome to Sunday Worship

As we gather, we celebrate the unique gifts God has given to all, believing that our many backgrounds and identities are essential to the shared offering we bring to God through worship, study, friendship, and serving.



Pray

Connect

Serve

Give

**Bold print** invites those who are participating in worship to read or sing.

## Gather to Worship

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Praeludium in G minor*

J.S. Bach

### CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens are declaring the glory of God;  
**and the earth proclaims God's handiwork.**

The daylight hours pour forth speech about God's goodness,  
**and the night whispers God's wisdom.**

This is not language that we can learn, nor are these words we can understand;  
the voice of nature goes undeciphered.

**Yet it is a voice that speaks, that sings, that declares throughout the earth that God is good.**

### OPENING HYMN

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

*(Sung)*

*When morning gilds the skies my heart awaking, cries: May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised.*

*(Spoken)*

**The night becomes as day when from the heart we say: May Jesus Christ be praised!  
The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear: May Jesus Christ be praised!**

*(Organ interlude)*

*(Sung)*

*Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this th'eternal song through all the ages long: May Jesus Christ be praised!*

### OPENING PRAYER

attr. St. Francis of Assisi; alt.

**O most high, omnipotent, Yaweh God, to you belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessings.  
For our brother the sun, our sister the moon, our brother the wind, our sister the fire,  
our mother the earth, we praise and bless you, O God. May we walk this earth gently,  
humbly, gratefully. Amen.**

## Proclamation of the Word

### CHILDREN'S TIME

Laura Healy

### PSALTER

Psalm 4:4-8

Sung response: *Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

Be angry, but do not sin;

**commune with your own hearts in your beds, and be silent.**

Offer right sacrifices,

**and put your trust in the Lord.**

There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!

**Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord!"**

You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

**In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.**

Sung response: *Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 24:36b-48

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**SERMON**

**Easter Day, Earth Day**

Rev. Paul Escamilla

**Response to the Word**

**RESPONSE**

*Now the Green Blade Riseth*

*Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been; love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

**WORD OF WITNESS**

Katie Myers

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living 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.**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

*La Tromba*

F. Couperin

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Lord, in your mercy . . .  
. . . hear our 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.**

**Sending Forth**

**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Open My Eyes*

*(Sung)*

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine!*

(Spoken)  
Cantor: Open my ears,  
Congregation: **that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;**  
Cantor: And while the wave-notes fall on my ear,  
Congregation: **everything false will disappear.**  
Cantor: Silently . . . silently  
Congregation: **Silently now I wait for thee,**  
Cantor: Ready . . . ready  
Congregation: **ready, my God, thy will to see.**  
Cantor: Open . . . open  
Congregation: **Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit Divine!**

(Sung)  
*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children this to share.*  
(All hum refrain together)

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Fanfare*

J. Lemmons

## LITURGIST

Katie Myers

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Tony Arredondo, Josh Benninger (*Susan Holloway*), Betty Benson, Judy Davis, Cheryl Dean (*Joe McMullen*), Marvin Gregory (*Carrie Clemens*), Lucien Manchester, Shelley McMullen, May O'Neal, Alex Padgett (*Laurel Welch*), Richard Parrigan, Doug Semmes, Penny Viola.

**God's Presence:** for our country, parents, teachers and students both face-to-face and remote, those affected by the COVID-19 virus and their families, as well as for the caregivers and researchers working to treat those affected and combat the spread of the disease; homebound members, the incarcerated, and women and men in our military.

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### Sunday, April 18

11:00 a.m. – In-Person Worship by reservation – *Sanctuary*

1:00 p.m. – SPRC Meeting – *Zoom*

### Monday, April 19

7:15 p.m. – AA Big Book Study – *305 and Zoom*

### Wednesday, April 21

6:30 p.m. – Wednesday Prayer Gathering – *Zoom*

7:15 p.m. – AA-Monte Vista Group – *305 and Zoom*

### Saturday, April 24

10:00 a.m. – Memorial Service for Rudy Marvin – *Sanctuary*

### Sunday, April 25

10:00 a.m. – In-Person Sunday School Classes – *Various Rooms, look for signs at building entrances*

11:00 a.m. – In-Person Worship [by reservation](#) – *Sanctuary*

1:00-3:00 p.m. – [Laurel Heights Youth Fellowship](#) – *Phil Hardberger Park 8400 NW Military Hwy.*

**Laurel Heights Weekday School** call (210) 732-6979 or visit [laurelheightsweekdayschool.com](http://laurelheightsweekdayschool.com)