

April 7, 2024  
Second Sunday of Easter – Bright Sunday

*We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

We bring the sac-ri-fice of praise in-to the house of the  
Lord. We bring the sac-ri-fice of praise in-to the  
house of the Lord. And we of-fer up to  
you the sac-ri-fic-es of thanks-giv-ing; and we  
of-fer up to you the sac-ri-fic-es of joy.

*(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All people:** *God, thank you, thank you, thank you – for your grace, for this community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings today that they might be used to further your kingdom of love, justice, and joy here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of this congregation that we might glorify you. Amen.*

**HYMN** *Go, My Children with My Blessing* Blue Chalice Hymnal, #431

**BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** May the God of surprises bring joy to your everyday and ordinary.  
May the God of love be seen in all you do and say.  
May the Lord be in your heart and the smile on your face.

**All people:** *Amen.*

**POSTLUDE**

**PREWORSHIP MUSIC**  
**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**CANDLELIGHTING**  
**PRELUDE**

**Acolyte**  
**Mr. Kevin Crone**

Centering Thought

*The risen Christ comes to us and says, “Peace be with you.”  
May we lay down the worries of our lives to welcome the peace of Christ.*

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP & CONFESSION**

**Pastor:** Christ is risen!

**Congregation:** **Now what?**

**Pastor:** The disciples clung to each other. They huddled in the upper room, waiting.

**Congregation:** **Would the authorities come to take them, too?**

**Pastor:** Instead, Jesus himself appeared, despite the locked door.

**Congregation:** **What next?**

**Pastor:** Next came doubts and questions, assurances and instructions, and a last word:

**Congregation:** **“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”**

**Pastor:** Christ is risen! Now what?

**Congregation:** **Now we come together to worship the Risen Christ.**

**All people:** *Sometimes, however, we hide ourselves  
behind closed doors...  
afraid to love...  
afraid to share...  
afraid to be vulnerable.*

*Sometimes we hide ourselves  
behind locked minds...  
unwilling to love...  
unwilling to share...  
unwilling to be vulnerable.*

*But you always invite us  
to step outside...  
to trust...  
and to embrace your new life.*

*Forgive our faintheartedness...  
release us from our reluctance...  
and inspire us to go and be and tell and do your good news... Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear the good news as recorded in First John 2:1-2.  
If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.  
He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins  
of the whole world.

**All people:** *Thanks be to God!*

## PRAISE HYMN *God Bless You Merry Sinner* (Tune: God Bless Ye Merry Gentlemen)

God bless you, merry sinner, you're forgiven it is true;  
Remember Christ your Savior has lived and died for you,  
and lives again as King of Kings, of saint and sinner, too.

*Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy - peace and joy.*

*Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.*

In Jerusalem at Calvary that dismal Friday morn,  
amid the pain and suffering eternal life was born.  
It came with arms outstretched to us, right through the curtain torn.

*Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy - peace and joy.*

*Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.*

So sing an alleluia, for our Savior's victory,  
and shout to all "Hosanna!" that we have been set free  
from sin and death and devil's grip throughout eternity.  
*We'll have tidings of Easter peace and joy - peace and joy.*

*Glad tidings of Easter peace and joy.*

*(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)*

**JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"**

## HYMN

*Thine is the Glory*

**Blue Chalice Hymnal, #216**

## FIRST READING

**Acts 4:32-35**

## EPISTLE READING

**1 John 1:1-2:2**

## GOSPEL READING

**John 20:19-31**

## SERMON

**Rev. Laura Baker**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: God of grace, God of love and laughter, we thank you that we are so wondrously  
created and that we are made for relationship with you and with one another. We  
thank you for laughter with friends and loved ones. We thank you for the laughter of  
children, and the song it creates in our hearts.

**All people:** *By your great unending love, you inspire in us a spirit of imagination and  
creativity. Help us to use that spirit to play more, to laugh more, and to create*

*beauty in every way possible. Remind us to laugh out loud, for doing so will  
heal some of the wounds within us. Not all, but some.*

**Pulpit Side:** God, we pray for those who cannot find their laughter today. For those who are  
grieving, or suffering illness of body, mind, or spirit...for those who are lonely  
and in need of someone to share their time and friendship... for those who have  
not yet moved into the season and spirit of Easter and find themselves stuck in  
the gloom of Good Friday.

**Lectern Side:** May these and the troubles of all your people be soothed, blessed, and comforted  
by your holy presence. May we each find the laughter within us that sets our  
spirits free, and in that freedom, may we take your love into every part of our  
lives. These and all the prayers of our hearts we offer now in the name of Jesus,  
who taught us to pray together saying...

**All people:** *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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: And now, beloved community of God, not because we have to, but because we  
are grateful, let us return to God what is ours to share. Let us joyfully offer our  
time, commitment, and money with a song and a prayer.

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

## OFFERING RESPONSE

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