

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – April 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Join us on You Tube!

Opening Music “What Wondrous Love Is This” Glory to God #215

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Joyful is the sound we make this morning!

For the resurrection liberates us from doubt and fear.

Thankful is the song we sing!

For the resurrection moves us past darkness and despair.

Hopeful is the prayer upon our lips!

For the resurrection awakens in us long-awaited new life.

Jesus said, “Where two or more are gathered in my name,

I am there among them.”

Christ lives here and now. He is among us at this and every moment!

Let us worship God with joy.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Almighty God,

in raising Jesus from the tomb

you have given us the sure sign of your power

to deliver us from sin and death.

We confess that we still fall into doubt and fear.

We continue to cling to selfish ways

and doubt your power to make all things new.

Forgive our lack of faith.

Have mercy on our weakness.

Raise us from the death of sin

that we may live with Christ in the joy of his resurrection,

now and forever. Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon

Music for Reflection	“At the Name of Jesus”	Glory to God #264
	“Tune: Now the Green Blade Rises”	Glory to God #247

We Listen to God’s Word

Children’s Message

Scripture

Acts 4:1–12

⁴While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, ²much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. ³So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.”

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

Acts 4:13–22

¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. ¹⁴When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. ¹⁶They said, ‘What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.’ ¹⁸So they called them and ordered them

not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; ²⁰for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.' ²¹After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened. ²²For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than forty years old.

Leader: This is the Witness to God's Word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Change Back!

Rev. Mary Austin

We Respond to God's Grace

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer *[together]*

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Depart for Service

Announcements and Passing the Peace

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

Commission & Benediction

Closing Music

"Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

Glory to God #538

Participating in the service:

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families, Children's Message
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence
Rev. Mary Austin

The Call to Worship is adapted from The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition by Faith Alive Christian Resources, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. The Prayer of Confession was written by John Paarlberg, pastor of First Church in Albany, New York.