

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

Hearing assistance devices are available. Please ask a greeter for a receiver.

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Melody in F

Eric H. Thiman

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Beloved, why are you afraid?

Life has conquered death!

P: The stone has rolled away!

L: We have seen and known Christ

Who has opened our minds to the truth.

P: Hope is stronger than despair.

L: The kingdom of heaven is at hand!

P: Alleluiah! Christ is Risen!

*HYMN #234

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Amy Finka, cantor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Christ is patient with our doubts;

He meets us in our fear and anxiety

And moves beyond our petty misgivings.

Therefore in the knowledge of His mercy let us confess our sins.

P: When you showed us what righteousness is

We sent Him to his death.

When his tomb is empty

continued

We demand proof and withhold hope.
We don't know you when we see you.
We lose all faith when things don't go the way we expect.
Open our eyes and minds
And teach us to see what's right in front of us.

(Time for silent confession)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE**

L: Beloved, the time for fear has passed.
Having spoken the truth of our transgressions against God and one another
Take heart! Receive the good news that in Christ,
All creation is being renewed and our sins are forgiven.
And having received assurance of God's friendship and reconciliation
with us,
May the peace of Christ be with you!
P: **And also with you!**

(For those in the sanctuary, please greet one another with a friendly wave.)

GLORIA PATRI Glory Be to the Father

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.

God's Word Is Proclaimed

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Suzie Lane

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE VERSE "These Treasured Children"

*Come Holy Spirit, help us be
a nurturing community.
Empower us to realize
God's kingdom through our children's eyes.*

FIRST READING

Acts 3:12-19

David Maddox

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out”

SECOND READING

Psalm 4:1-8

Mary Skinner

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?
But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

When you are disturbed, do not sin;
ponder it on 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!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!”
You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.

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

THIRD READING

1 John 3:1-7

Jack Henderson

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

FOURTH READING

Luke 24:36b-48

Kim & Matt McMullin

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #630

"Fairest Lord Jesus"
Amy Finka, cantor

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: As we reach out to you O God from our anxiety and our privilege,
From our distress and our comfort, our want and our plenty
Listen to the words of our mouths and the unspoken longings of our hearts
As we call out as one,
In your mercy

P: Lord hear our prayer

L: For our church
That our service to artists and those experiencing homelessness may bear
righteous fruit
Shore up our foundation. Direct our path.
May we continue our service and legacy faithfully into the next generation
In your mercy

P: Lord hear our prayer

L: For our city
Squeezed by crowding and rising costs
Roiled by division and violence
That we will seek mercy, truth, justice and abundance
In your mercy

P: Lord hear our prayer

L: For our state
Blessed with beauty and prosperity
And struggling with prejudice, want, despair, and addiction
Guide our leaders to the path of compassion, justice, inclusion, peace
and decency
In your mercy

P: Lord hear our prayer

L: For our country
Beset with division and rancor
Heir to legacies both righteous and broken
Guide our citizens, institutions and culture
To seek justice, truth, mercy, and righteousness
To bind up our wounds and reconcile to one another
In your mercy

P: Lord hear our prayer

L: For the world
Heal the nations torn by insurgency and war
Lives gripped by pandemic, famine, squalor, and poverty
Climates ravaged by waste and shortsightedness
And huddled masses yearning to breathe free
In your mercy

P: Lord hear our prayer

L: And for every need that goes unsaid
In this room at home and everywhere
Together will all your saints in all tribes, tongues and nations,
We pray as you taught us to,

P: Our Father....

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 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.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*)**

Too often, generous God,
 we give into the temptation to keep everything for ourselves.
But you would have us notice those who hunger for hope, as well as bread;
 those who are caught in the injustices of the world;
 those who struggle to find themselves.
And in noticing, we become generous and loving,
 even as we have been graced by our Brother and Savior,
 Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts
And Bear It Into the World

***HYMN #547** “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”
 Amy Finka, cantor

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

L: Go out into the world in peace
 Have courage
 Hold on to what is good
 Return to no person evil for evil
 Strengthen the faint-hearted
 Support the weak
 Help the suffering
 Honor all beings.
 And let all God's people say

P: Alleluia Amen

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

 Gavotte: In the Style of Samuel Wesley Eric H. Thiman
(please remain seated during the closing voluntary)

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain 234

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal:

loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing

led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

One of the many ancient hymns translated into English in the 19th century, this 8th-century Eastertide hymn was originally part of a longer Greek liturgical text. This tune was created for this text by a church organist who later rose to fame as a composer of operettas.

630

Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547

1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.

Parking

Parking for Sunday worship is in the SP+ garage at **147 4th Ave. N.**

You must come down 4th from Church Street. Parking in this garage is complimentary from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parking vouchers are necessary to exit the garage without having to pay. To get one, just ask one of our greeters.

Sunday Worship Attendance for April 11, 2021

31 Adults & 2 Children

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

Monday, April 19

Tuesday, April 20

Wednesday, April 21

5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, April 22

6:30pm Outreach Meeting via Zoom

Friday, April 23

3:00pm Fish & Loaves Meal Assembly

Saturday, April 24

7:30am Fish & Loaves Meal Distribution

Sunday, April 25

9:30am Children's Sunday School - via Zoom

11:00am Worship - The Sanctuary

OUR MISSION

Gathering in the heart of Nashville, we are a community of disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek the welfare of the city as we seek the kingdom of God.

We are an historic church working to be a welcoming and inclusive congregation. Together we actively share God's grace and love through worship, education and service, and through being an active voice in promoting justice and peace in our community and the world.

OUR VALUES AND ETHOS

- Belief in God's love and in Christ's ministry
- The desire to welcome and embrace everyone. No exceptions.
- Service to God, service to our neighbors
- God's gift of creativity

SESSION 2021

Class of 2021

Jim Hoobler
Mary Turner
David Maddox

Class of 2022

Erin Bell
Tom Byl
Jake Byl

Class of 2023

Tom Wills
Samera Zavaro
Leslie Hughes

THE CHURCH STAFF

Dena Swoner, Office Manager
Paulino Jarquin, Maintenance Manager
Dr. William Taylor, Director of Music
Suzie Lane, Director of Children's Education