

+ Our Roots Are Grounded in God in Christ +
++ We Are the Branches Fed by the Roots + Stay Connected! ++



+ The People of Mount Zion-Finksburg, Maryland +

Wm. Louis Piel Pastor + Leslie Gabler, Director of Music
Ushers Shirley Loveless & Judy Piel + Roger Davis +

The Third Sunday after Easter Day + April 30, 2023 + Worship 9:55 a.m. +

Musical Prelude + The Message of New Life in Christ Jesus 1

“But he said to them, Do not be afraid, you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth – he has been raised!”

Celebrating Resurrection, New Life, Easter!

(Unison) “Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside of the tomb. As she went in she bent over to look in. She saw two angels in white, one at the head and other at the feet where the body of Jesus was laying. She said, they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid him. Jesus said to her, woman, why are you weeping?

Mary did not recognize Jesus, thinking he was the gardener. Sir, she said, if you have carried him away tell me where you have laid him and I will take him away. Jesus said to her, Mary! She turned around and said to him in Hebrew, Rabbouni! Which means Teacher. Mary then went to the disciples and said to them, I have seen the Lord.”

Hymn Verse of Resurrection (Refrain) “Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o’er His foes, He arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever with his Saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ a-rose!

(1) Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus, my Savior, he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord. (Refrain).

Call to Worship (Unison)

We gather today in the name of the risen Lord.
We gather as sisters and brothers of the resurrected one.!
We gather to worship God and share our faith
We gather to proclaim the good news of Easter!
Christ is risen! Alleluia!

The tomb was dark that morning, but empty
The one we were looking for has overcome the darkness
The stone has been rolled away
The one we were looking for has overcome death
The burial clothes are put aside
The one you are looking for is alive! He is here with us today!
Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen Indeed! Let us worship our Risen Savior!

Hymn of Faith “In the Garden” U.M. Hymnal #314

Opening Prayer

Anthem “I Go to the Rock” + The Faithful Few

“Where do I go when there is no one else turn to? Who do I talk to when no one wants to listen? Who do I lean on when there’s no foundation stable? I go to the Rock of my salvation. On Christ the solid rock I stand!”

Video “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

The Call to Each One of Us
Our CHALLENGE is to follow Jesus
His life, his ministry, his teachings and especially His Resurrection!

A Biblical Look at Paul’s Letter to the Christians in Corinth+

Scripture Lesson + I Corinthians 15.12-22 NRSV

Paul visited Corinth about 50/51, written about 52-53 CE

2 Corinthians 5.17-20 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a **new creation**: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

All this is from God, **who reconciled us to himself through Christ** and **has given us the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since **God is making his appeal through us**; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: **be reconciled to God.**

Morning Prayer – Prayer Leader Roger Davis

Our Prayer Song (“The Faith We Sing” songbook) #2164

(Two times) “Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true,
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living, sanctuary, for you.”

(Unison)

Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world.

We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious.

Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News.

Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ.

Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

(Unison-Congregation)

We sing together (The green “Worship & Song” book #3068)

Our Father, which 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 that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

We Welcome our Children

Even if we do not have children in congregational worship we remember all God’s children.

“Jesus loves me, This I know, for the Bible tells me so, Little ones to him belong, they are weak
But He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes! Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so

Informal Moments + Reception of our Tithes & Offerings

Offering Response (Hymnal #94) “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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A Branch Fed by God's Roots

Paul, 2 Corinthians 4.8-10 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

Romans 8.35-39 "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Ephesians 4.25-5.1 good guidelines + Colossians 3.7-11 good guidelines

"Rocks" or Foundation Stones of Our Pastor

Things that guide me/my life

1. **God loves me.**
I need to "like" myself
And "Commands me to loved others in God's name
2. **God is always with me.**
The presence of God, the "wind" "the breath" "the Spirit"
3. **God gives me freedom. God has given "creation" freedom**
Freedom to the weather + freedom to my life
4. **God loves the creation and is not like the "watchmaker"**
Jesus + Lo I am with you always even to the end of the age
5. **I believe in the "wind" – "presence" – Spirit (of God)**
6. **There are "messes" in life and God is in the midst of the messes**
We have a God who knows about suffering, pain -\
7. **Ambassadors for Jesus – God expects me/us to be ambassadors for good**

Our Closing Hymn "In Unity We Life Our Song" ("The Faith We Sing," songbook)
Selection #2221

Closing Blessing (Pastor)

Go now as God's chosen witnesses

Go now to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him.
Do not look for Jesus among the dead, but be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

And may God raise you from all that would entomb you;
May Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you;
And may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good.

Congregation Unison Closing Prayer (Congregation)

As we prepare to leave this place and go back into the world
We affirm that the "Alleluias" of Easter are not just words
They are a way of life and living

We share the "alleluias"

When our bread is divided among the hungry,
When our table is set, and all God's people can eat together
When the hungry in spirit are fed with God's love
When peace is celebrated even among those we disagree with
When diverse and divided communities are brought together
When neighbors love each other, regardless.

We leave this place bubbling over with God's love!

We promise to share that love!

So let it be! Amen and Amen!

Musical Postlude