FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

# Traditional Service
# First Sunday after Easter

## April 16, 2023

## *The Service for the Lord's Day*

*WE GATHER*

PRELUDE Prelude and Fugue in B Flat Minor Johann Sebastian Bach/arr David Macbeth
(from *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, BWV 867)
Dr. Aaron Patterson, saxophone

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather as people on a journey.
**All: We believe, and we have doubts. We are imperfect, and we are still beloved by God.**
One: So we bring the fullness of ourselves.
**All: Love and grace. Hope and faith. These are the essence of the one we call God.**
One: Speak to us, God. Your people are gathered and listening.
**All: Let us worship God!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #388
Come All You People *(From Glory to God - see insert)* UYAI MOSE

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come now and worship the Lord. (Repeat)

*Please stand if you are able.

## *WE CONFESS*

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious and right all the time, we miss out on the strange wisdom and unfettered joy of your mysterious ways. Clinging to the despair and fear, we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart. Forgive us, Resurrected One, and make us open to the startling and upside-down ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter's colorful laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through our risen Lord.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## *WE LISTEN*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 20:19-31 — The Rev. Dr. Steve Simmons

Leader: The word of the Lord;
**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON DIALOGUE — The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton, The Rev. Dr. Steve Simmons

"Today's Thomases"

## *WE RESPOND*

*SERMON HYMN #399

We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight — DUNLAP'S CREEK

**1** We walk by faith and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From Christ Who spoke as none e'er spoke;
But we believe Him near.

**2** We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice,
And cry, "My Lord and God!"

**3** Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near
And seek where You are found:

**4** That, when our life of faith is done,
In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are,
With full and endless sight.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the *Confession of 1967*)

**In Jesus of Nazareth true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. Jesus Christ is God with us. To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION — Lafayette College Students

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory "Canto" — Elliot del Borgo

Dr. Aaron Patterson, saxophone

*Doxology — #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow — OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*SENDING HYMN — #388

Live Into Hope — TRURO

**1** Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God's own jubilee!

**2** Live into hope the blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear--
A vision of our God brought near.

**3** Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.

**4** Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

*BENEDICTION "Dream With Me" Leonard Bernstein

Dr. Aaron Patterson, saxophone

# Come all you people (Uyai mose)

Tune & words: Alexander Gondo
Arrangement: JLB

