

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. April 21, 2024

Entering God's Presence

Welcome, Life in the Community, and Ritual of Friendship

*Hymn 401

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

*Expressing of Joy

Leader: God says, "Listen to me in silence. Let the people renew their strength."

People: As we draw near to God, we draw near to each other, helping our neighbors and saying to each other, "Take courage!"

Leader: We are God's servants, God's friends gathered from the ends of the earth, called from its farthest corners, to whom God says,

People: "I have chosen you; fear not, I am with you."

Leader: In thankfulness for God's presence and our strength renewed,

People: We rejoice!

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. (Congregation seated.)

Prayer of Trust and Confidence

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, your face is hidden from us by our sins, and we forget your mercy in the blindness of our hearts. Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires. With lowliness and meekness may we draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

*Hymn 529

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNION SEMINARY

Genesis 12:1-3 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 9 in the pew Bible.]

Anthem

Keep Your Lamps!

arr. Andre Thomas

I John 2:7-11 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 225 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon

God's Intentions ~ Our Expectations

The Rev. Vance E. Polley

*Affirmation of Faith and **Gloria Patri** (No. 581)

Christ Jesus though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death—even death on a Cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

(Phil. 2:5-11)

Ministry of Prayer [Text prayer requests to: (843) 437-4239]

Dedicating our Gifts and Tithes ~ **See oursunrise.org to give securely online**

(In the *Offering*, we dedicate our lives and a portion of the resources God has entrusted to us. Your gifts may be dedicated online, by mail, or in-person.)

*At the Presentation

Doxology (No. 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication, concluding with *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.

*Hymn 316

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH

*Benediction and Choral Benediction

*Going Out into the World

*Those that are able, please stand.