

# Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – April 28, 2024

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

Church in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. | Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.



### Welcome

*Welcome to all! Please register your attendance with the QR code on the back of the bulletin, or with the online link, or on paper in the church Gathering Space. Need help? Ask any usher.*

### Opening Music

“To God Be the Glory”  
Canterbury Ringers

JASON W. KRUG

### Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Christ is risen ...

**He is risen indeed!**

Let us worship God ...

**And give God all the praise!**

### Opening Prayer

### Hymn [*stand*]

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Glory to God, #611

### Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and loving will forgive us. In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.

## **Prayer of Confession** [*responsive*]

Jesus walks with us, but we don't see him.

Jesus talks with us, but we don't really listen to him.

Jesus calls us, but we ignore him.

**Forgive us, God, for failing to respond to your presence in our lives, and even more so, for failing to show forth your love to the world.**

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

## **Assurance of Pardon** [*responsive*]

# **We Listen to God's Word**

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## **Children's Message (11:00)**

Carolyn Hayes

*At the 11:00 service, children and youth are invited to leave for class. Children can be picked up after church in Room 30/31 or Room 32/33. Youth will be released from class to find you.*

## **Musical Response** [*seated*] "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Glory to God, #469

## **Prayer for Illumination**

## **Old Testament Reading**

Genesis 3:1-8

## **New Testament Reading**

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Roller Coaster

Rev. Todd Sutton

## **We Respond to God's Grace**

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**Hymn** [*stand*]

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

Glory to God, #451

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory**

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"  
Canterbury Ringers

WILLIAM J. KIRKPATRICK,  
ARR SANDRA EITHUN

**Sung Response** [*stand*]

"Give Thanks"

Glory to God, #647

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Prayers of the People**

**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

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## Announcements

**Sending Song** [*stand*]      “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”      Glory to God, #65

## Closing Blessing

**Closing Music** [*seated*]      “My Lord What Morning”      AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL  
Canterbury Ringers      SETTING BY HART MORRIS

## Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Cover Art: Hochhalter, Cara B.. On the Road to Emmaus, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58918> [retrieved April 22, 2024]. Original source: Cara B. Hochhalter.

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### Participating in the service:

Bill Stief, Guest Musician  
Sandra Ragusa, Bell Choir Director  
Kofi Kumi, Worship Leader (9:30)  
Mary Spencer, Worship Leader (11:00)  
Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children & Families  
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence  
Rev. Todd Sutton

Thank you for  
worshiping with us!

[gpchurch.org/guestbook](https://gpchurch.org/guestbook)   [gpchurch.org/give](https://gpchurch.org/give)



April 28, 2024

## Events & Announcements

**Town Hall Meeting** – On Sunday, May 5, following the 11:00 am service we will hold a Town Hall Meeting with a brief update on “Where We Are in Transition.” Join us to hear updates on the Jumpstart retreat, progress toward electing a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC), and other staffing plans.



*Sign Up for Table Fellowship*  
(PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS DINNERS FOR EIGHT /D48)

**Table Fellowship will take place inside or outside, will involve adults with or without children, and will not require everyone to host.**

As eight adults sign up, groups will be created. After you participate in one group, you can sign up to be included in another group.

Contact Clara Pratt at [office@gpchurch.org](mailto:office@gpchurch.org) to be added to a group.

**Monday Morning Coffee** – All are welcome to join us on Zoom, every Monday morning, at 10:30 am. Come for a few moments to say hello or stay the whole time. Have you never been before? We would love to see you. Email [office@gpchurch.org](mailto:office@gpchurch.org) for the Zoom link.



**HELP FILL OUR KIDS' CREW FOR VBS**

Registration is open now to get on board for “Sail On,”  
GPC’s Vacation Bible School!  
July 15–19, 9:00 am to Noon

This year’s theme is learning how to “sail” with the Holy Spirit.

For more information or to register visit [gpchurch.org/vbs](http://gpchurch.org/vbs) or scan the QR code.

Please let anyone know who has kids 4 years old through 5th grade.

**A Little Help Makes a Big Difference** – Our Little Free Food Pantry helps answer the critical needs of our food-insecure neighbors. We are so grateful for your commitment to keep it supplied through food or monetary donations. You can donate online or by check. Financial donations allow pantry volunteers to shop for specific needs as soon as they arise. This week’s suggested food donation is **Pasta**.

**Want to give Sunday flowers?** – You can give flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one, or just because. The cost is \$50, and you can take the flowers home after the 11:00 service. Fill out the form on our website and pay the \$50 through the app or by check, noting that it's for flowers. Thanks to everyone who adds to the beauty of worship in this way.