

# Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – April 21, 2024

## Fourth 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

“He Rose Triumphantly”  
Praise Team

OSWALD SMITH  
BENTLEY ACKLEY

### Call to Worship [*responsive*]

We come to this place of prayer,  
**for here we can bring our hopes and dreams, and the fears we carry.**  
We come to this place of grace,  
**for here we learn compassion and joy, and discover how deeply we are loved.**  
We come with these people called the church,  
**to be blessed by the variety of gifts, to live as one for our God.**

### Opening Prayer

### Hymn [*stand*]

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Glory to God, #81

### Call to Confession

We give so much time and energy to things that do not serve life. In this time of confession, we have the opportunity to name how we have misplaced our priorities and seek the One who longs to be first in our lives.

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

Nourishing God, we confess the ways in which we have ignored your call to be good stewards of the bodies you have given us.

**Lord, forgive us.**

God of justice, we confess the ways in which we have been too quick to discount the needs of others' bodies.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Creator of New Ways,

**Remind us of the depth of love that you have for us individually, and from that place of belovedness, teach us how to love our neighbors as you command.**

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

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

In every moment of our being, God is present creating, redeeming, and sustaining all that is.

**Through Christ, love is poured into our weary souls; through the Spirit, peace becomes the gift we can share with those around us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **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*]

"As the Deer"

Glory to God, #626

### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **Scriptures**

John 10:11–18

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

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

### **Sermon**

Rev. LeAnn Hodges

## We Respond to God's Grace

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**Hymn** [*stand*] "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" Glory to God, #250

**Moment for Ministry** Living Legacy Fellowship Dinner Elder Doreen Turczyn-Toles

### Invitation to Generosity

**Offertory** "Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord" DONALD FISHEL  
Praise Team ARR JOEL RANEY

**Sung Response** [*stand*] "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" Glory to God, #263  
*verse 3*

### 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*] "How Can I Keep from Singing" Glory to God, #821

### Closing Blessing

**Closing Music** [*seated*] "Come, People of the Risen King" KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY  
Praise Team STUART TOWNEND

### Passing the Peace

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

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**Participating in the service:**

Bill Stief, musician

Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children & Families

Elder Doreen Turczyn-Toles, Worship Leader

Rev. LeAnn Hodges

Thank you for  
worshiping with us!

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



April 21, 2024

## Events & Announcements

**Celebrate Earth Day with GPC Today** – The Creation Care committee invites you to begin your Monday, April 22 celebration of Earth Day during the coffee hours after each service today! You can enjoy Creation Care’s information tables, giveaways, and delicious veggie snacks! Please join us to learn how to become a better caretaker of God’s earth!

**Rebuilding Together Montgomery County** – Saturday, April 27, 8:00 am–4:00 pm  
– GPC is sponsoring a home again this year. We could use at least 30 volunteers to perform maintenance (painting, carpentry, electrical, plumbing) on an older townhome. Questions? Contact Yaw Obeng or Jerry Brown.



*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.

**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.”

**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.

**Little Free Food Pantry** – To help our food-insecure neighbors while helping our Lord’s creation, please provide the following donations to GPC’s Pantry this week: canned & dried fruit, oatmeal, & peanut butter. Please place your donations directly in the Pantry or the wooden bin in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary. Thank you!

**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.