

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

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



Choral Introit

Easter Proclamation [*responsive*]

Christ is risen
He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Amen.

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

“The Day of Resurrection” (Lancashire)

ARR. SHACKLEY

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Imagine that someone you least expected to see suddenly stands before you.
Think of a moment when your fear was suddenly proved unfounded
and you were surprised by joy.

We resign ourselves to the worst, failing to imagine God’s best.

If you look at the world and feel overwhelmed by its chaos,
or disillusioned by its promises, come hear about a God
who still hovers over the chaos of our world.

**Today we remember how Jesus’ friends could only know fear and loss
and were greeted by a Savior.**

Come today prepared to see your life and the world through new eyes.

For Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

Hymn [*stand*]

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Glory to God, #232

Call to Confession

The good news was shared with frightened friends that Jesus was risen and alive in our midst. Let us acknowledge the fears and amazements we bring this morning in our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession [*responsive*]

Saving God, forgive our life-alienating ways,
our exclusion and judgment of others; the ways that we evaluate and compare.
Forgive our death-dealing sins,
our habits that demean and degrade.
Redeem us. Restore us.
Resurrect us for life in Christ.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God’s Word

Children’s Message

Carolyn Hayes

Children and youth stay in worship today.

Musical Response [*stand*]

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”
sing 2 times, refrain only

Glory to God, #591

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 20:1–18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, 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 and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Sermon

Rev. LeAnn Hodges

We Respond to God's Grace

Hymn [*stand*]

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

Glory to God, #240

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

"This Glorious Easter Day!"
Chancel Choir

PRICE/BESIG

Sung Response [*stand*]

"Christ Is Alive!"
verse 5

Glory to God, #246

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

Announcements

Sending Song [*stand*]

“Thine is the Glory”

Glory to God, #238

Closing Blessing

Choral Response

Closing Music [*seated*]

(9:30) “Easter Joy!”

COLIN CURTIS

(11:00) “Alleluia from Exultate Jubilate”

MOZART

Rob Winters, horn

Passing the Peace

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

†

Participating in the service:

Elder Carol Anderson and Elder David Mecklenburg, Worship Leaders (9:30)

Elder Scholastica Muluh, Worship Leader (11:00)

Katherine Williams, Director of Music

Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

Rev. LeAnn Hodges

Thank you for
worshiping with us!

gpchurch.org/guestbook gpchurch.org/give





March 31, 2024 Events & Announcements

Easter Monday – The church will be closed on Monday, April 1, for the Easter Monday holiday. No email or Monday Morning Coffee Hour on Zoom.

VIPS Meeting – Thursday, April 4, in Lindsay Hall; Gathering at 11:30 am, Meeting at 12:00pm. Speaker is Richard Allen, a member of the MoCo Office of Human Rights Committee Against Hate Violence. Bring Your Own Lunch or join the Shared Lunch of ham or turkey and cheese sliders, sides, and desserts for all. Contact Nancy Sanders with questions.

Craft Group – The group meets next Sunday, April 7, at 12:15 in Lindsay Hall. They continue knitting and crocheting to support the requests from local service organizations. You can help too! Questions? Contact Barbara Clark at office@gpchurch.org.

Get Your Gardening Gloves Ready! – If April showers bring May flowers, we want our GPC gardens to be ready for them...and you can help. Our Building and Grounds committee has scheduled an outside Spring Clean Up for Saturday, April 13, from 9 to 11 am. You are encouraged to BYOG&T (Bring Your Own Gloves and Tools)!

We need your input.

WHO, ME...?
YES, YOU!

Come to JUMPSTART-
Our All-Church Mini Retreat
Saturday, April 20
9:30-2:30 in Lindsay Hall

The anticipated results of the Jumpstart mini retreat are to...

- Help us gain clarity about our priorities for mission and ministry
- Provide an opportunity to get things moving for a future direction for GPC
- Create our Ministry Discernment Profile (the required next step in our process)

It is essential that we have as many people present in person as possible. We know that this is a big ask. We also believe that the future of our church is worth this investment. So mark your calendars, and invite others to join you! Lunch provided (suggested donation of \$5).

Coming to Jumpstart? Let us Know! – In order for the Congregational Life Ministry to provide enough food for lunch at our April 20 JUMPSTART mini-retreat, please sign up to attend in Lindsay Hall. (Suggested donation of \$5).

Lenten Giving Project – The RJ ministry is establishing a Racial Justice section in the GPC library, while the Prison Ministry is providing necessary items for men and women in prisons. Please consider donating. Scan for more information.



Share a Happy Easter Welcome! – Thank you for wearing your name tag. Our church is full of Easter joy today. If you haven't been to church in a while and don't have a name tag, you can request one and pick it up at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex/Gathering Space

On Easter we remember that our Little Free Pantry is More than Food – You can stock the Free Pantry with items other than food. Folks can use donations of toothbrushes, travel-size toiletries, and wrapped eating utensils. You may already have these items at home. Our Suggested food donation is Oatmeal (regular and instant). Thank you so much for your donations.

Easter Flowers



The Flowers in the Sanctuary were given to the glory of God, and in Celebration, in Honor, or in Memory of Past and Present Loved Ones

Given in Celebration

Karma Beal – in celebration of my grandchildren: Chris, Jeremy, Sammy, Nhu, Ava, and Nicole.

Claudio & Liane Ferreira – in celebration of Easter.

Richard & Barbara Clark – in celebration of our family Scott, Theresa, Everett & Aaron Clark, Julie & Jeff Rumsey, Wayne Jones & Eleanor Jones.

Jennifer Scavullo – in celebration of Family.

Art & Sue Eisenhower – in celebration of our grandchildren: Samuel, Casey, Benjamin, Miles, and Sarah.

Elba Hildebrant – in celebration of Betty and Richard Hildebrant.

Given in Memory

Sandy Newcomb – in memory of Henry Newcomb.

Phil & Evi Melberg – in memory of Rev. & Mrs. William F. Melberg, Albert & Elizabeth Janosy, Albert A. Janosy.

Roger Burkhart – in memory of Ernest & Ruth Wallace, Clifton & Enid Burkhart.

Paul & Susan Linz – in memory of Jack & Ginny Sonneborn and Henry & Rita Linz.

Francie Whitlock – in memory of Ward Whitlock.

Mary Masselink – in memory of Bernard TenBroek .

Yvonne Miller – in memory of my parents - Johnnie B. & Doris A. Miller.

Jane Hyndman – in memory of Aunt Sadie Simpson.

Jane Hyndman – in memory of my cousin Gertrude Wells Laffin.

Jane Hyndman – in memory of Elizabeth Bruce.

Jane Hyndman – in memory of Emily Noto.

Ann & Jim Davidson – in memory of our grandson, Samuel Patton Davidson.

Marjorie Leach – in memory of Walter Leach.

John & Beverly Skoczlas – in memory of Emery & Mary Lovach and John & Julia Skoczlas.

Richard & Barbara Clark – in memory of Robert & Mary Clark, Earl Jones, and Mary Champney.

Comfort Ncheawah – in memory of Mama Emilia Ngum and Pa Jonas Ngang.

Pamela Clinch – in memory of my husband Rich, my father & brothers.

Don & Barb Woodward – in memory of Robert Woodward.

Elba Hildebrant – in memory of Elba & Antonio Romero.

Shirley Gunderson – in memory of our parents

Joyce & Gary Schumacher – in memory of Mr. & Mrs. O.M. Lynch and Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Schumacher.

Jeanne Chamberlain – in memory of Harold & Mary Ann Nelson.

Catherine Lyon – in memory of Randy Lyon

Don & Nancy Wilson – in memory of Don's mother, Irene Wilson.

Given in Honor

Shirley Clapham – in honor of Kathleen and Gary Aller.

Catherine Lyon – in honor of Kristopher Lyon.

Jane Hyndman – in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hyndman, my sister Martha, and my brother David.

Art & Sue Eisenhower – in honor of Mary Beth Lawrence.

Don & Barb Woodward – in honor of David Woodward.

Francie Whitlock – in honor of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.