

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRELUDE

Now the Green Blade Rises, arr. P. Manz¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

Inspired by Psalm 4

Leader: The Lord hears us when we call:

People: Come, let us put our trust in God.

Leader: The Lord fills our hearts with gladness:

People: Come, let us sing God's praises with shouts of joy!

Leader: The Lord grants peace to our weary souls:

People: Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God's grace.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

*HYMN 236

*The Strife is O'er, Victory*²

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Risen Christ, we are often troubled by our doubts. But you are not troubled by them. You do not require perfect understanding. Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again that we might come to know you. Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck, when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do. Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us. Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide it, when we fail to offer it to others. Renew us and make us whole that in this world of strife we may be bearers of your peace. In resurrection hope we pray (*continue with silent confession*). Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

I John 3:1

Leader: See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. Children of God,

**People: we are claimed by God, forgiven of our sins, and set free for love.
Alleluia! Amen.**

*ACCLAMATION HYMN

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven, Ode to Joy³

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high!

Alleluia! to the Savior who has won the victory.

Alleluia! to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity,

Alleluia! Alleluia! to the Triune Majesty!

*PASSING THE PEACE *(please use a fist/elbow bump or wave for your greeting)*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Please stand, turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers, offering them the peace of Christ and then greet each other.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a

ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After the message, children may follow the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.

SERMON

Embraced By A New Future

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN

*He Lives!*⁴

1 I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
2 In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
3 Re - joice, re-joyce, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing

I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er some may say;
and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!

I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast,
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find,

and just the time I need him he's al - ways near.
the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at last.
none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

Refrain

He lives, he lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day!
he lives, he lives,

He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.

He lives, he lives, sal - va - tion to im - part!
 he lives, he lives,

You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with - in my heart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns
 Pastoral Prayer
 The Lord's Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 240 (refrain) *Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks, Alleluia No. 1*⁵

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
 Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY

Christ Be With Me, H. Hopson⁶

*DEDICATION HYMN 609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, Lasst Uns Erfreuen*⁷

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Living Lord, we give you thanks for the bounty of your grace: you create us in your image, shower us with your love, forgive us when we turn away from you, and give us a future with hope. Bless these gifts we offer you today, and make us good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. May our gifts bring joy and peace in our church and in our community. In Christ's holy name we pray, Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 295**

Go to the World!, Sine Nomine⁸

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Toccatà in F Major, D. Buxtehude⁹

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Leaders Today:

Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

The Chancel Choir

Ushers/Greeters: The Hayes Family, Kate Fletcher, Gary Stephens (Deacon)

Liturgist: Lucia Hayes

AV/Tech: John Tarr

Dorothy Blotz, flute



WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Info Update - IMPORTANT - Please Read

We are in the final steps of updating our member photo directory. We want to make sure we your correct information, so please take a moment to stop by the table (by the coat rack) in the Narthex and check your name and info. If something is incorrect, you can mark it on directly on the directory or call the office and let us know 608-238-3121. We need to have this done by April 14. Thank you!

After Worship

Pastor Scott will resume Adult Ed/sermon talk back in the MJB lounge after worship. Feel free to join!

Directory Sign Up - Last Call - It's not too late!

Members and friends of the congregation - we encourage you to sign up asap for the pictorial directory April 17-19! This is free (with an option to buy the photos if you like them). We would love to have a complete directory. Just use the QR code here and pick your time.



Save the Dates

- VBC – Westminster will be joining forces again with Christ Presbyterian Church on August 13-16 from 9am-12pm for Vacation Bible Camp. Children, youth and adults are invited to participate!
- Women's Retreat - We will be having another inspiring Women's retreat at Holy Wisdom on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Rev. Clara Thompson will lead this year!

Adult Forum: Sunday, April 21st at 11:00am

Aaron Hicks, Reentry Coordinator, Nehemiah

Mr. Hicks will share his experience in the criminal justice system, current challenges he faces, and his work in Nehemiah's "Man Up Group". Aaron offers peer support to men in the community, has developed mental & emotional wellness initiatives inside prisons, and has started violence prevention initiatives. Mr. Hicks was recognized by EXPO for his work and commitment to those impacted by incarceration.

THANK YOU!

The Spring Rummage Sale was a huge success, bringing in an all time high of \$4,376! This will go to help many local charities. Thank you so much to all of those who volunteered, donated and shopped. And special thanks to the Madison West Boys Swim & Dive team for helping clean up! We couldn't do it without all of you.

Madison College Presents: Brunch Series: Black Spaces - Saturday, May 4th, 11am - 1pm at Madison College, Goodman South Campus, 2429 Perry St. Panelists: Rev. Dr. Alex Gee, Dr. Reuben Anthony, Julian Walters, Michael Emem, and Michael Ford will discuss black spaces that create opportunities for Black people to heal and thrive in the past, present, and future and provide specific strategies and resources to build. The event is free, but registration is required (use QR code).



Coins for a Cause - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who gave to the March Coins for a Cause! We raised a total of \$205. Amy and the kids were very excited to pick items from the PC USA Giving catalog during Spiritual Adventures. They were able to purchase items to help refugees and displaced people including a water filter that will give people clean water and keep plastic bottles out of landfills; a kitchen kit that gives a refugee family a cooking pot, some utensils, cups and plates; a sewing machine that will help someone make, mend & repair clothing and start a business to have a steady income; and two piglets that a family can use as a source of income.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Care List: Sally & Vern Forsberg, Ann Friedley, Jack Hamann, Gloria Hanson

Members & Friends: Rick & Connie Dettloff