

†HYMN Jesus, Lover of My Soul 479
Students (grades 3-5) may now exit the Sanctuary for a time of conversation in the Parlor.

OFFERING Cassie Segal, 8:45, insert
Come, Thou Dear Redeemer Cesar Franck

CHORAL ANTHEM Rayne Chancel Choir, 11:00
What Wondrous Love Is This
arr. Peter Pindar Stearns

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul.
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

†DOXOLOGY *singing together*
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise him
above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

†THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION 8:45, insert
*If you would like to remain where you are an usher
will provide a communion packet for you at your pew.*

Near to the Heart of God 472
Precious Lord, Take My Hand 474

†HYMN Christ for the World We Sing 568

THE STEERING COMMITTEE Restoration & Renewal
Courtney Landry & James Comeaux

†BENEDICTION *responsively*
Go now in peace.
**Stand firm in your faith. Be strong. Be brave.
Let everything you do be done in love.**

POSTLUDE Dialogue Recessional John Lee



MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
for 149 years shining the light of God's love and grace
3900 St. CHARLES AVENUE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70115
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Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



Star Jasmine

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

All are welcome!

All are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

GATHERING

Rev. Jay Hogewood

Dear God, Help us to stop...to hold this moment. Interrupt us from doing things automatically right now. In this stopping, meet us here. Meet us in the beauty of your incredible mercy and goodness. And in so doing, remind us again that you are here too; you are here listening, because that is who you are. You are the Vine, we are the branches. You are the kindness that runs to find us whenever we have wandered off. You are the faithfulness we don't have enough of. Speak gently to us of what needs to change in order for your forgiveness to free us, your love to care through us, and your faithfulness to strengthen us.

~ adapted from Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

PRELUDE

Marcus St. Julien

Aria

Flo Peeters

+CALL TO WORSHIP *responsively*

Rev. Mary Brown, 8:45

Rev. Zoë Garry, 11:00

Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.

We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.

When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.

Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community with God and one another. Amen.*

*created by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries

+HYMN

God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us

100

PRAYER *responsively*

The guiding grace of Jesus, our Savior, be with you.

And also with you.

+The People Standing

Let us pray together as the Body of Christ at work in the world: **We begin our day with trust in you, our gracious God - Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. We trust you created us for loving encounter. We place our hope in you. Please lead us to acts of love, kindness, forgiveness and justice. Help us to embrace possibilities for mercy this day; help us to respond graciously to disappointment; help us to hold tenderly those we encounter; and help us be fully present to the day. For the glory of your name, we pray. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *together*

11:00

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPONSE *singing together*

Abide with Me

700

verses 3 & 4

**I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**

THE RED STEPS

A Special Time for Our Children

At this time, children age 3 years old through 2nd grade may come forward to the front of the Sanctuary for a time of sharing, then attend children's church in the education building.

MISSION MOMENT

Crescent City Café

PRAYER O God, light the dark corners of our minds. Warm the cold places in our hearts. Fill the empty chambers of our spirits. Heal the brokenness of our lives. Amen.

-Rev. John Winn

SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-8

Emily Lemann, 8:45

Travis Parr, 11:00

HOMILY

The Gospel according to Jasmine

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

All are welcome at the table!

HYMN

God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us

100

1 God, whose love is reigning o'er us, source of all, the ending true;
hear the universal chorus raised in joyful praise to you:

Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship true.

2 Word of God from nature bringing springtime green and autumn gold;
mountain streams like children singing, ocean waves like thunder bold:

Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation's tale is told.

3 Holy God of ancient glory, choosing man and woman too;

Abr'am's faith and Sarah's story formed a people bound to you.

Alleluia, Alleluia, to your covenant keep us true.

4 Covenant, new again in Jesus, Star-child born to set us free;

sent to heal us, sent to teach us how love's children we might be.

Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, our Savior he.

HYMN

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

479

1 Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,

while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.

Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;

safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.

2 Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee;

leave, ah! Leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.

All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;

cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in thee I find;

raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.

Just and holy is thy name, I am all unrighteousness;

false and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.

4 Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;

let the healing streams abound, make and keep me pure within.

Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee;

spring thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.

HYMN

Christ for the World We Sing

568

1 Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring,

with loving zeal; the poor, and them that mourn, the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn, whom Christ doth heal.

2 Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring,

with fervent prayer; the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost, from dark despair.

3 Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring,

with one accord; with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.

4. Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring,

with joyful song; the newborn souls, whose days, reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION

Gracious God, we know that when we hurt another, we hurt you. We are aware that we have allowed the shadow of hate to cloud our souls, hiding your love from our hearts. We have said hurtful things to our family and friends when they failed to live up to our expectations. Grant that we might find that spark of love that ever burns within us - the love that you have shown to us even when we failed you. Forgive us our sin and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us. Lead us into new life through your Son Jesus Christ, who guides us with compassion. Amen.

PARDON

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us. We have already been cleansed by the word that Jesus speaks to us. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn: *singing together:*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith: *singing together: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.* Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood. By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God.

singing together: Amen, amen, amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER *together*