

April 7, 2024, 9:00AM

*In the spirit of Christ,
to love, to nurture, and to serve
one another, our communities and the world.*

Welcome to worship this Sunday! Wherever you are, God is present with you.
Let us now move from getting where we are to being present where we are, as we worship God.

PRELUDE

Regina Spektor

Laughing With God

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marion Park

* Please rise in body or spirit

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Carolyn Blocker

Leader: Joy is loose,

People: In the wiggles of the children,

Leader: The whispers of the youth,

People: The smiles of the adults.

Leader: We praise God for this glorious day,

People: Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.

Leader: Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs

People: Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.

*** OPENING HYMN**

Hymnal No. 246, vs. 1-4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**2 All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.**

**3 Mortals, join the happy chorus
which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all in heaven's plan.**

Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Carolyn Blocker

Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously,
when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children,
when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.
Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
You know better than we do, Amused God,
what important people we believe we are.
Believing we have to be serious all the time,
we miss out on the joy of your creation.
Clinging to the despair which is our best friend,
we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart.
Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling,
and upside-down, ways in which you work.
Fill us with Easter's laughter;
fill us with your healing joy;
fill us with the love poured into us
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS AND CONFESSIONS

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ.

People: **When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy.**

Leader: The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

People: **We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.**

Leader: Let us rise in body or spirit to share this joy with everyone as we greet one another with the peace of Christ.

* SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE & COMPASSION

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Hymnal No. 441, vs. 1

Hear the Good News of Salvation

**1 Hear the good news of salvation:
Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy!
Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

COME AS A CHILD

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HYMN OF PREPARATION

Hymnal No. 246, vs. 1-4

Christ is Alive!

**1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**

**3 In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

SERMON

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Knock, Knock ... Who's There?

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS & BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

COMMUNION MUSIC

D. Manoiu

All Creatures of Our God and King

PRAYER OF BLESSING

*** CLOSING HYMN**

Hymnal No. 623

I've Got Peace Like a River

**1 I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

2 I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.

3 I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

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POSTLUDE

Lyle Lovett

Church

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