

Astoria First United Methodist Church
April 4, 2021



Easter Sunday

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC

“Up from the Grave He Arose”

Mary Frances Gunn

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

James Cook

Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope. Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. We run to the tomb to see for ourselves. And it is true. Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. We hear a voice call our name, and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always. Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. Thanks be to God.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

NT SCRIPTURE READING

“Acts 10:34-43”

James Cook

So, Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Easter Song”

Mary Frances Gunn

PSALTER READING

“Psalm 118:1-2, 14-21”

James Cook

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, the right hand of the Lord exalts, the right

hand of the Lord does valiantly!" I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. *You have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

James Cook

Gracious and Patient God, we come before you with so many things which weigh us down. We would like an "easy" faith, one that doesn't cause us to look within ourselves, to identify those many ways in which we have forsaken you. But faith is never easy. It requires our very souls. Forgive us, God, for all those things which we have neglected to do that would have helped someone else to be closer to you. Heal our hearts from the wounds which have been inflicted upon us by the anger and misunderstandings which occur in relationships. Prepare our lives to be of service to you. In silence we wait. We long for your presence and your healing touch. **AMEN.**

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

James Cook

Darkness is gone! Light floods into our souls! Christ is Risen! His love and mercy are poured out for you. Rejoice! You have been saved and forgiven through the gift of Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

EPISTLE NT READING

"1 Corinthians 15:1-11"

James Cook

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word, I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Mary Frances Gunn

UMH#302

GOSPEL LESSON

"John 20:1-18"

Pastor Michael

SERMON

"I Don't See You, but I Know that Voice"

Pastor Michael

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mary Frances Gunn

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Michael

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

(Please remember to bring the communion elements of the bread and juice with you today)

BENEDICTION:

Pastor Michael

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.

Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.

If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.

We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.
