

Astoria First United Methodist Church  
April 18, 2021

## *Third Sunday of Easter*

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mary Frances Gunn**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

*“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*

**Stephen Morden**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**Pastor Michael**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Jane Hill**

We gather in the name of the risen Lord. Christ is risen! Alleluia! We gather as sisters and brothers of the resurrected one. Christ is risen! Alleluia! We gather to share our faith and to worship God. Christ is risen! Alleluia! We gather to proclaim the good news of Easter! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

**NT SCRIPTURE READING**

*“Acts 3:12-19”*

**Jane Hill**

And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“He Lives”*

**Janet Todd & Stephen Morden**

**PSALTER READING**

*“Psalm 4”*

**Jane Hill**

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds and be silent. Offer right sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord. There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!” You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jane Hill

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life. Forgive us, restore us, renew and refresh our spirits. In the Name of our Risen Savior, Jesus the Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Jane Hill

The tomb is empty. The stone is rolled away. There is no darkness now, only light. God continues to renew us and restore us. We are forgiven, loved and restored, receiving the gift and promise of new life and resurrection now. Go and share the wondrous news of God's love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **AMEN.**

## NT READING

*"1 John 3:1-7"*

Jane Hill

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be, has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

## HYMN OF PREPARATION

*(words on screen)*  
*"Trust and Obey" (vs 1,2,3,4)*

UMH#467

## GOSPEL LESSON

*"Luke 24:36b-48"*

Pastor Michael

## SERMON

*"We Are God's Children Now"*

Pastor Michael

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mary Frances Gunn

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

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**

**BENEDICTION:**

**Pastor Michael**

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## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Ad Council Meeting after worship today.**

**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.**

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