



*Continuing to Celebrate*  
**Easter**

***April 16, 2023***

***11 a.m.***

Flowers given by **Roger Weiss**, in loving memory of **Ellie Weiss**.

PRELUDE

*Fanfare & Processional*

Lynn Trapp

INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: When the smell of lilies is *thankfully* starting to dissipate!

**Many: We continue to celebrate Easter!**

One: When the last bag of clearance jellybeans is gone,

**Many: We dive deeper into how Easter is more than a day, but an entire season.**

One: When the “Alleluias” start to fade and the chatter of the world starts to sing,

**Many: We come to offer our prayer and praise to the risen Christ who still welcomes disciples into the mystery of this season.**

One: It is good to be here on this day.

**Many: Alleluia and Amen!!**

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright, the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light; We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain, for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin, the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is there in; Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend, for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Blessing and sending God, from the very first Easter to today, You entrust *us* to embrace and embody the good news of Your healing love. You empower *us* to share and sing Your reconciling grace. Honestly, we wonder if we are *really* up to the task? We have doubts about our ability to hold fear and joy together. We long for shortcuts and simple steps telling us exactly how to be Your people. Like the first disciples, we come with a mixture of faith *and* doubts. Move in our midst this morning with a reassurance that we don't, *and* won't, ever have it all figured out. Reassure us that You can work with the messiness and less-than-perfectness of this art project we call, "life". In the name of the One who is the light and life of all, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE      *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise; Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise. Jesus on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled; But the crucified Redeemer now is risen from the dead!**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

SERMON

Discipling Faith and Doubt

OFFERING/ANTHEM

*Halle, Halle, Halle*

Marty Haugen

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Ask Me What Great Thing I Know*

#49

Ask me what great thing I know that delights and stirs me so, What the high reward I win,  
whose the name I glory in: Jesus Christ, the crucified.

Who defeats my fiercest foes? Who consoles my saddest woes? Who revives my fainting  
heart, healing all that grief imparts? Jesus Christ, the crucified.

Who is life in life to me? Who the death of death will be? Who holds all my days secure,  
in God's heart where love is sure? Jesus Christ, the crucified.

This is that great thing I know; this delights and stirs me so: Faith in Christ who died to  
save, Christ who triumphed o'er the grave, Jesus Christ, the crucified.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*The Sovereign's Fanfare*

Arthur Bliss

## ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023

**Practicing an Easter-Faith** ~ How do we open our lives to the mystery of Easter? In April we will pause our regularly scheduled Bible Study sessions to engage the book, *Practicing Our Faith* edited by Dorothy Bass. You are invited on **Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm on Zoom** (April 25 and May 2) **OR Wednesday mornings at 11 am** (April 26, and May 3). Wednesday is hybrid either in the Oasis Center or Zoom. The chapters of this book will inspire and inform and open us to ways we might live in these days. **Please RSVP with Pastor Wes today** ~ all are welcome.

**Grief Group** ~ There is room in our Easter faith when our Good Fridays persist!! We will be hosting a **grief group on Thursday, April 20 at 4 pm in the Chapel** ~ **there is still space for you**. This is an opportunity to share together, support one another, and offer God's love. This group is open to all whose hearts are heavy because grief takes many forms and faces. Please sign up by calling the church office.

### **Consider making a LEGACY GIFT to the church ENDOWMENT.**

Join Legacy Society members in securing the future of our church and the continued presence of its ministry in our community. **Hear more after the 11 am church service on April 16 during fellowship hour in Syster Hall.**

**THANK YOU** to our current Legacy Society Members.

Anonymous (4), Vince Amoroso\* & Tam Milton, Warren Bacon & Barbara Smith-Bacon, Pat\* & Graham\* Barkhuff, Joan Beach\*, Dr. Fred\* & Lee Brockmann, Greg Chestnut, Fred Clark\*, Rev. Dr. Craig Collemer, Fran Collier\*, Phyllis Collins, Chris Cooper, Dennis & Evelyn Crooks, Helaine Eckstein, Pauline Geary, Carol Hagglund, Richard\* & Debbie Hayes, Lucy Hedrick, Bill & Pat

Grubb, Lynn Jones, Drs. Marsha Kindall-Smith & Hugh Smith, Billie Knauss\*, Mary Kukainis, Bev Laier, Vonda Leonard, Dr. Sara Little & Barbara Shaver, Bruce\* & Judy\* McGowan, Rick & Patrice McDaniel, Ginny McIntire\*, David & Susan Mitchell, Gib & Jeannie Mitchell, Bill & Susan Moore, Rev. Dale Moore & Dr. Steve Horowitz, Nancy Morris, Len & Drue Murray, Felix & Nancy McElroy, Dr. Richard Miller, Susan Raines, Larry and Charlene\* Ream, Myron & Brenda Robinson, Gregg Royer\*, Betty Rundlett, John\* & Connie Schaefer, Carol Seltzer, Joan Sheil\*, Ann Stormzand\*, Rev. Dr. Jean & Paul\* Simpson, Audrey Shutters, Lucia Taylor\*, Minton\* & Sandra Tinsley, Dr. Tim & Connie Toops, Jean Walker, Roger & Ellie\* Weiss, Bill Wendling\* & Lynne Woodman, Lori White, Elizabeth Wildhack, Dr. June Wolgemuth, Dale & Cindy Woodling, Bruce Wooley, David York and Ross Ellwood\*... ***If you have made a legacy gift and are not on the list, or would like to learn more about the Legacy Society***, contact any Endowment Committee member Cindy Woodling, David Mitchell, Gib Mitchell, Hal Kamm, Steve Combs, or Nancy Morris.

**COLLAGE (LGBTQ + Allies) News** ~ Our COLLAGE (LGBTQ + Allies) group will meet on zoom on **Tuesday, 25 at 11 am**. This is a wonderful chance to connect and catch up! **Diversity Voices of Sarasota Concert** at Holley Hall (709 N Tamiami Trail) ~ **Saturday, April 22 at 3 pm**, cost is \$20.00 in advance. **AND** ~ 25th Anniversary Purple Tie Celebration at the Sarasota Art Museum (1001 S. Tamiami) ~ **Friday, May 5 at 6:30**. For tickets: [www.diversitysarasota.org](http://www.diversitysarasota.org)

**Can You Offer a Ride?** Among the not-so-great realities of giving up driving, either voluntarily or required, is the inability to get where you want to go. Coming to First Congregational on Sunday has been a ritual for many of our members, yet they no longer have the means to get to church. We are looking for volunteers who might be willing, not necessarily every Sunday, to offer a welcoming ride to church. Some of you are already doing this and you know how much it means to both of you. If you believe this is something you are being called to do, please let the church office know. We are hopeful we can match you with someone who lives nearby. As is sometimes said, the road to a friend's house is always on the way. *The Growing & Caring Team*

**Sacred Conversations on Race** ~ Over the last three years, this group has been meeting weekly having holy and hard conversations about race. Moving forward, Sacred Conversations on Race will meet **every other week**. **The group will remain hybrid ~ in person in the Oasis Center OR on Zoom at 3 pm every other Wednesday**. Upcoming Topics: **April 26**: "White Supremacy: Same Dog, Same Tricks - Time to Change the Training" - a TED TALK by Russell Ellis.

**Hazing Film to be Shown** ~ Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center in Sarasota will show, *Hazing*, a film by **Byron Hurt, son-in-law of Priscilla and Jim Crumel, on April 18 at 6 pm**. The admission for April 18 is free, but you do need to RSVP go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/screening-of-hazing-documentary-tickets-559849624297>

**SURE News** ~ (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity) ~ A "Justice Gathering" has been scheduled for **April 24 at 6:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 2050 Oak Street in Sarasota**. SURE continues to actively work on Affordable Housing, Mental Health, Restorative Practices and Criminal Justice issues.

**Core Values Discussion, April 30** ~ The current set of Core Values has guided our congregation for over a decade. Since that time, we have received many new members who are now on Leadership Teams. This year we are reflecting and discussing our Core Values, Mission, and Vision Statement. We want to hear from YOU!! **After the 11 am. service on April 30, you will have a chance to share your reflections during fellowship time.** If you are not able to attend this conversation, please see Pastor Wes or Nancy Morris. In the coming months, a small working group will be wordsmithing the Core Values, then seeing how these changes might impact our wording in the Vision and Mission Statements. Here are our current Core Values:

- Worship is at the heart of what we do and who we are.
- We are an inclusive community and love each other, not despite our differences, but because of them.
- We are grounded in Sarasota reaching out beyond our walls to neighbors near and far in service.
- We strive to offer an extravagant welcome to all.
- We strive to respect each other in our diversity.
- We are a joyful covenant partner with the United Church of Christ.

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, April 16 ~ Endowment Sunday**

Sunday Worship, 9 am, sanctuary

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in the sanctuary and online

Fellowship, noon, Syster Hall

### **Monday, April 17**

Growing and Caring Meeting, 12 pm, Oasis Center

### **Tuesday, April 18**

Drumming as a Spiritual Practice, 3 pm, Oasis Center

Church Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Hybrid, Oasis Center and Zoom

Tuesday Study of *Practicing Our Faith*, 6:30 pm, Zoom

### **Wednesday, April 19**

Wednesday Bible Study, 11 am, Hybrid, Oasis and Zoom

Choir, 7 pm, Chapel

### **Thursday, April 20**

Grief Group, 4 pm, Chapel

### **Saturday, April 22**

Wedding for Jeff and Anna Teris, 3:30 pm, sanctuary

### **Sunday, April 23 ~ Earth Day Celebration**

Sunday Worship, 9 am, at Oasis Center

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in the sanctuary and online

Bible in a Year, 1 pm, Oasis Center and Zoom

*We encourage you to subscribe to the weekly **Midweek Message** via your email to keep connected with activities in the church.*