



April 30, 2023

11 a.m.

Flowers give by: **Phil Swain and Chuck Jarman**

PRELUDE

Adagio

C. M. Widor

INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: The words of the hymn inspire and awaken our faith,

Many: My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and faithfulness.

One: We gather with the heartfelt prayer that for a few moments we would feel,

Many: It is well with my soul.

One: In this very room, we open our whole lives to be saturated and soaked by God's presence who,

Many: Abides with me.

One: Through words spoken, sung, and whispered in our souls, we join in worship.

Many: It is good to be here! Alleluia and Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

#403

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness; I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: **On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.**

When shadows veil my Savior's face, I rest upon unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

Christ's oath and covenant and blood support me in the rising flood; When all around my soul gives way, Christ then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When Christ shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in love be found. Dressed in God's righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. *Refrain*

***OPENING PRAYER**

We gather as Your people, O God, on this day. What language can we borrow to express and explain what is in our cluttered hearts? We long for words that can hold the tension of blessings and brokenness we bring. We search for phrases that begin to give expression to what is in our souls. There are moments when the word is right *there* on the tip of our tongue but refuses to leap from our lips so it can be heard by another or by ourselves. Honestly, we are a bit flummoxed. There is so much, O God, we want to share with You; even as we trust You have been with us every hour this week. There is so much, O God, where we need Your guidance and strength. There is *so much*, and yet, You know us and love us and hold us now in the stillness of this moment.

Silence.

Let Your wisdom, peace, and love be our guide this hour and every hour this week. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Perpetual Praise

Your many blessings are new each morning and with each dawning we sing your praise! From early morning to restful evening our grateful hearts sing praises! Your love and mercy, shining bright, bring hope and joy as we follow Your Light. You breathe within us. You sing within us. You move our hearts to perpetual Praise! Through all of our days. Perpetual Praise!

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Romans 5 and 6, *selected verses*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, *because* God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, so we also might walk in newness of life.

SERMON

The Password of Hope

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

Blessed Assurance

#473

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain **This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blessed; Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. *Refrain*

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

Sing Praise To The Lord

arr. Robert Hobby

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

Core Values Discussion, TODAY ~ 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.

Do you have a special occasion coming up? Anniversary? Birthday? There are spots available for altar flowers in June and beyond. **Cost is \$40 per bouquet.** Call the church office to request a Sunday! **Thank you!**

Sacred Conversations on Race ~ The group will remain hybrid ~ in person in the Oasis Center OR on Zoom at 3 pm the Second and Fourth Wednesday. Upcoming Topics: **May 10:** “Asian American Pacific Heritage Month Mashup” - Talks at Google by George Takei and the Cast of Broadway’s *Allegiance* **May 24:** “Let’s get to the root of racial injustice” - TED TALKS by Dr Megan Ming Francis

Grief Group ~ There is room in our Easter faith when our Good Fridays persist!! We will be hosting a **grief group on Thursday, April 27 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.

COLLAGE (LGBTQ + Allies) News ~ Our COLLAGE (LGBTQ + Allies) group will meet on zoom on **Tuesday, May 9th and 23rd at 11 am.** This is a wonderful chance to connect! **Diversity Voices of Sarasota Concert** ~ 25th Anniversary Purple Tie Celebration at the Sarasota Art Museum (1001 S. Tamiami) ~ **Friday, May 5 at 6:30.** Tickets: www.diversitysarasota.org

The UCC Women invite everyone to our luncheon and program on **TUESDAY, MAY 2, entitled “Memory Road Show.” We begin in Syster Hall at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon costs \$12.** Please bring a “memory” item to display—a photo, an object you have saved, a gift you treasure—and you will have the opportunity to share its significance with all in attendance. All are invited. Sign up at the back of the sanctuary after each service, or call the church office. **Please bring one or more of these items for the Mission Project of the Florida Conference of UCC Women** to benefit a Ukrainian community: New underwear (adult and children) and socks in all sizes; School supplies: white paper, lined; colored construction paper, pens, crayons, metric rulers, notebooks, stickers, back packs; Toiletries: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant Makeup: Lipstick, eyeliner, mascara; Feminine products: Tampons, sanitary napkins, feminine wipes; Diapers and baby wipes; clothing for infants, newborn to 12 mos.; Monetary donations for transporting and shipping items

World Labyrinth Day, May 6 ~ Are you feeling stressed or overwhelmed by the negative events in our community? Are you losing hope for a more peaceful world? **Saturday, May 6, is World Labyrinth Day** with the motto: **“Walk as one at 1”**. What does that mean? At 1 p.m. in every time zone around the globe, people are encouraged to join their collective energy of purposeful walking on a labyrinth to bring peace to our hurting world. After a brief introduction and prayer beginning **at 12:45 p.m.** we will join as a community to walk our church labyrinth for peace. Bring a friend.

New Member Session will be held in Syster Hall on May 7th at noon. We invite anyone interested in learning more about the church, our covenants, mission and ministry to please attend. A light lunch is served, please RSVP to the church office at 941-953-7044.

YOU ARE INVITED: May 14, 2023 in Syster Hall after the 11 am Service. Let us celebrate Mother’s Day together. COLLAGE will be sponsoring a special Mother's Day Luncheon for the entire church. A light lunch will be served. We are encouraging all church members to bring a picture of their mother or mother figure with labels stating the Mothering person’s name and the person bringing it. A conversation titled "share a short story about your mother or grandmother or ‘mother like’ figure in your life” will take place at each table.

**Mother's Day has traditionally been COLLAGE's day to serve our Church Fellowship Hour with our great pleasure and gratitude.

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 30

Sunday Worship, 9 am, in sanctuary

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in the sanctuary and online

Coffee and a Cause ~ Core Values Conversation, noon, Syster Hall

Monday, May 1

Facilities and Grounds, 10 am, Oasis Center and Zoom

Racial Justice Mission Group, 11 am, Zoom

Tuesday, May 2

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

Wednesday, May 3

Wednesday Study of *Practicing Our Faith*, 11 am, Hybrid, Oasis and Zoom

Worship Team, 1 pm, Zoom

Choir, 7 pm, Chapel

Thursday, May 4

Grief Group, 4 pm, Chapel

Saturday, May 6

World Labyrinth Day, 12:45 pm, Labyrinth

Service for Marilyn Shipman, 3:00 pm, Zoom ONLY!

Sunday, May 7 ~ Piedmont University Singers ~ both services!!

Sunday Worship, 9 am, in sanctuary

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in the sanctuary and online

Birthday Sunday, noon, Syster Hall

FREE ~ Piedmont Singers Concert, 2:30 pm, Sanctuary

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