

# CREDO

"We write theology with our lives."

Diana Butler Bass

**March 10, 2024 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | Fourth Sunday of Lent**

## GATHERING

### **PRELUDE**

*The Joyful Trumpet* | Patricia Lou Harris

James Stanley

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 107: 1-3, 21-22) †

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

**for his steadfast love endures forever:**

let the redeemed of the Lord say so,

**those he redeemed from trouble**

**and gathered in from the lands,**

from the east and from the west,

**from the north and from the south.**

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,

for his wonderful works to humankind.

**And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices**

**and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.**

Rev. David C. Freeman

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 89, verses 1-2** †

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* | United Methodist Hymnal

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE †**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 89, verses 3-4 †**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* | United Methodist Hymnal

## **LITANY OF JOY †**Rev. Freeman & Rev. Haley Jones Wells

Response to David: **Deliver me, Jesus.**

Response to Haley: **Jesus come be my joy.**

## **GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ANTHEM**

*Set Me As a Seal Upon Your Heart* | David Childs

Chancel Choir  
Ian Bartlett, French Horn

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone.**

## **HYMN 289**

*Ah! Holy Jesus* | United Methodist Hymnal

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

**1 John 1: 5-10** | Pew Bible, New Testament Page 221

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Elizabeth Small

## **SONG**

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning, Jesus in the noon-time. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down. Love him... Serve him...**

## SERMON

Sin and Free Will  
Credo Series, Part 4

Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

## CHILDREN'S CREED †

I believe in God above.  
I believe in Jesus' love.  
I believe The Spirit, too,  
Comes to show me what to do.  
I believe that I can be  
Kind and gentle,  
Lord, like thee.

## SONG

Praise him, praise him, praise him in the morning, praise in the noon-time.  
Praise him, praise him, praise him when the sun goes down. Jesus, Jesus...

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

## OFFERTORY

Kelley Ponder

*Arise, My Love and Come Away* | Mark Hayes

## DOXOLOGY 95 †

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* | United Methodist Hymnal

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**  
**praise him, all creatures here below;**  
**praise him above , ye heavenly host;**  
**praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †

## SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

## INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP †

## CLOSING HYMN 98 †

*To God Be the Glory* | United Methodist Hymnal

*During the singing of the hymn, individuals desiring to join the church are asked to come to the chancel so the pastors may offer membership vows and welcome you to the congregation.*

## **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS †**

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

## **BENEDICTION †**

## **CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION †**

Excerpt From: *When I Survey the Wonderous Cross* | Gilbert Martin

## **POSTLUDE**

*Rise Up and Serve the Lord* | Patricia Lou Harris

### **Questions for Reflection**

What were you taught about sin through church growing up? How have these teachings affected your faith as an adult?

Do you believe that the concept of sin is an essential element to your relationship with God? Why or why not?

What are the day to day barriers that come between you and God. Consider making an exhaustive list. Now, take time to consider the ways you could remove those barriers or learn to walk around them.

## **ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE**

**Clergy:** Rev. David C. Freeman, Rev. Haley Jones Wells, Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

**Music & Worship Arts:** James Stanley, Shannon Webb, Ian Bartlett, Kelley Ponder, Chancel Choir

**Liturgist:** Elizabeth Small

**Audio/Visual:** Christopher Cone, Lesley Andrews

**Acolytes:** Sarah Elizabeth House, Bridget Yoder

**Altar Guild:** Jessica Szenher, Delia Prather

**Altar Flowers:** To the glory of God and in celebration of Donna Smith's birthday on March 13, given by her family.

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

### **Requesting Prayer:**

Mary Lou Rasco, Mary Davis, Linda Baker, Sidney Beal, Susan Weir, Paul Floyd, Melba Yancy, Chad Wycoff, Nick Thompson, Dee Ann Holt, Linda Deloney, Hatley Rodgers, Savannah Smith, Coralie Hawkins, Les Haynie, Steve Cross, Gary Villines, Bob Nelson, Anna Grace Clark Watt, , Heather Rose, Heather Hill, Bill Lewis, Ann Marie Trammell, Rosie Howard, Jeff Crowe

### **We need Easter Candy**

We need candy for our Easter egg hunt! Grab a bag of nut free candy on your next trip to the church and toss it in one of our donation baskets. These donations help us to provide a fun event for our church family and community!

### **The Pantry at Washington Elementary**

Our pantry volunteer team for Washington Elementary packs 300+ weekend food bags for the scholars. You can help keep this ministry THRIVEing by sending in a designated donation to the Church. The ministry helps fill in the gap for children who are food insecure on the weekend.

### **Bag Donations for Community Cafe**

Do you have a bag of bags at home? (No judgement, most of us do!) Consider thinning them out and donating them to our Community Cafe neighbors. We are often asked for STURDY bags--backpacks, rolling bags, weekend away bags. You can drop them off in the donation bins around the Church or in First Cup Cafe. No plastic bags, please!

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

### Sunday, March 10, 2024

- 9:00 am First Word (Cokesbury)
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am First Tradition (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 pm UWF Luncheon
- 5:00 pm Family Fun Night
- 5:30 pm Canvas Community Worship

### Monday, March 11, 2024

- 9:00 am Flower Girls
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 5:30 pm Adv. Commitment gathering
- 6:30 pm Adult Intro Taiko Drumming

### Tuesday, March 12, 2024

- 7:00 am Tues Morning Bible Study
- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- 10:00 am Worship Planning
- 11:30 am Adv. Commitment gathering
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 3:00 pm First Arts @ FUMC
- 5:00 pm FANN
- 6:00 pm Taiko Drumming

### Wednesday, March 13, 2024

- 9:30 am CDC Chapel
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 5:00 pm Board of Trustees
- 5:00 pm Wed. Nights on Center St.- Meal
- 5:45 pm Center St. Ringers Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Wed. Nights on Center St.- Class
- 6:30 pm Adv. Commitment gathering
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, March 14, 2024

- 10:00 am PALS
- 12:00 pm Caregiver's Group
- 7:00 pm Ensemble Rehearsal



## Do you have sacred photos?

As a part of the Campaign for Sacred Spaces, we are looking for photos from your experiences in the Sanctuary -- wedding photos, baptism photos, confirmation photos, photos from choral programs, Christmas program photos, and pictures of any other events.

We know these are cherished photographs, so we ask that you scan the originals and email them to [landrews@fumclr.org](mailto:landrews@fumclr.org) or bring them by the church office and we will scan them for you and get the photos back to you.

Thanks you so much for sharing your family's precious memories with us all.

## Easter Lily Memorials & Honorariums

Help adorn the sanctuary with lilies on Easter Sunday and make a contribution to the new mobile laundry ministry for our downtown neighbors. **\$15 contributions** can be made in memory or in honor of a loved one and their name will be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. To make your contribution, fill in this card or contact the office. Deadline is Monday, March 25. **If you send funds by check, write 'Easter Lilies' in the memo line.**

In Honor of:

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In Memory of:

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Given By:

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## MOMENT IN MINISTRY



**WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN DOWNTOWN LITTLE ROCK.** We have embraced our role in urban ministry. Our members and friends come because they are attracted to our vitality, warmth, friendliness, and energy. They stay because we travel with them on their journey.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNALS.** An usher will be happy to help you find the large print bulletins and United Methodist Hymnals on the center table in the Narthex, as you enter the church. Please return the hymnal to the table at the conclusion of the service.

**AUDIO AND VIDEO OF TODAY'S SERVICE IS AVAILABLE.** CD's and DVD's of today's service are available by calling the church office at 501.372.2256 or by emailing Lesley Andrews at [landrews@fumclr.org](mailto:landrews@fumclr.org).

**ATTENTION PARENTS.** We understand worshiping with children can be an adventure, but it is an essential part of their growth in Christ. If your child is staying in worship, please see an usher if you would like a worship bag. However, if you desire a nursery, one is available on the second floor outside the Sanctuary. If you need assistance, please see an usher or a member of the Hospitality Team.