



**April 7, 2024 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | Second Sunday of Easter**

[GATHERING](#)

**PRELUDE**

James Stanley

*Marcia per Organo* | Giovanni Battista Candotti

**CALL TO WORSHIP** † (*adapted from Psalm 33 by Beth Merrill Neel*) Rev. David C. Freeman

Let us worship God, who has drawn us and healed us.

**Let us worship God who has restored us to life.**

Sing praises to the Lord, O you faithful ones, and give thanks to God's holy name.

**God's anger is but for a moment; God's favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

You have turned our mourning into dancing; you have taken off our sackcloth and clothed us with joy, so that our souls may praise you and not be silent.

**O Lord my God, we will give thanks to you forever.**

Let us worship God.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 261** †

*Lord of the Dance* | United Methodist Hymnal

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE †**

Rev. Natasha Murray

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

## **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance  
said he.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY** *(by Quentin Faulkner)*

It is a good thing to sing your praises, O God of mercy and love, for you  
have given us life and breath, and freed us from the bonds of death  
through the dying and rising of your Son. Therefore, how can we help but  
sing, for we are your chosen and redeemed people; through Jesus Christ,  
our savior. Amen.

## **GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SONG**

Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong;  
they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me— the Bible tells me so.

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

### **HYMN 384 †**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* | United Methodist Hymnal

### **SACRED SPACES TESTIMONY**

Anna Beth Gorman

## [PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD](#)

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Mark Wyers

1 John 1:1 – 2:2 | Pew Bible, New Testament Page 221

The word of God, for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN 206 †**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* | United Methodist Hymnal

RESPONSE TO THE WORD**OFFERTORY**

Chancel Choir

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing* | Craig Curry**DOXOLOGY 94 †***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* | United Methodist Hymnal**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;****praise God, all creatures here below:****Alleluia! Alleluia!****Praise God, the source of all our gifts!****Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!****Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!****Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!****INVITATION TO COMMUNION †****THE GREAT THANKSGIVING †**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

...all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THE 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, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE GIVING OF THE CUP**

*Communion hymns can be found on pages 304, 322 in the United Methodist Hymnal.*

## [SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD](#)

### **INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP †**

**As a community and individuals, responding to God's grace, we seek to be good neighbors to make Little Rock a place where all God's children THRIVE. Through our spiritual journey and life in the community, we will work for the core values we believe all children of God need; Trust, Health, Relationships, Imagination, Value, and Education.**

### **CLOSING HYMN †**

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

*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.*

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er,  
Time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

I am weak but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Thro' this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but  
Thee.

## **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 †**

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You* | Peter Lutkin

## **POSTLUDE**

*Sinfonietta* | Giovanni Battista Candotti

James Stanley

## **ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE**

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

**Music & Worship Arts:** James Stanley, Shannon Webb, Chancel Choir

**Liturgist:** Mark Wyers

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

**Acolytes:** Carter Konecny & Flora Watkins

**Altar Guild:** Lisa Warren & Juanita Woodard

**Altar Flowers:** To the glory of God and in loving memory of April 9, 1977, the day Marianne and Stark Ligon were married, given by Stark Ligon.

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Requesting Prayer:**

Tommy Deaton, Helen Herr, Gay Lee, Emily Taylor, the Thompson family, Mary Davis, Sharon Ursery, Linda Baker, Sidney Beal, Susan Weir, Paul Floyd, Melba Yancy, Chad Wycoff, 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

## Sympathy

To Mary Thompson, CJ and Paige following the death of Nick Thompson, husband and father, on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

### Sunday, April 7, 2024

- 9:00 am First Word (Cokesbury)
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am First Tradition (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 pm First YOUth
- 5:30 pm Canvas Community Worship

### Monday, April 8, 2024

- 9:00 am Flower Girls
- 1:00 pm Community Café

### Tuesday, April 9, 2024

- 7:00 am Tues Morning Bible Study
- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- 10:00 am Worship Planning
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 4:15 pm FANN
- 6:00 pm Taiko Drumming

### Wednesday, April 10, 2024

- 9:30 am CDC Chapel
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 5:00 pm Board of Trustees
- 5:45 pm Center St. Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, April 11, 2024

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

### Saturday, April 13, 2024

- 4:00 pm Memorial Service for Zac Sanford



## 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.



**SACRED SPACES**  
Windows to Our Past, Bridges to Our Future

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.

# 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.

