



Great Falls United Methodist Church

10100 Georgetown Pike ☩ Great Falls, VA 22066

703-759-3705 ☩ www.greatfallsumc.org

Reverend Livingstone S. Dore, Pastor

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

“Bitterness imprisons life; love releases it.

Bitterness sickens life; love heals it.”

~ Harry Emerson Fosdick

We Gather in Praise and Worship

GATHERING

Glorious Light

Alice Eelman

Keith & Kristyn Getty, Ian Hannah, Arr. Larry Shackley

Music Director

WELCOME & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Sandra Musser

CENTERING

Andantino in C

AE

Ch. H. Rinck

This signals the beginning of our worship service. Let us be in quietness and a spirit of prayer.

Our Worship to God

*CALL TO WORSHIP

SM

L: We are called to this place to worship God.

C: We lift our voices to God.

L: We are called to this place to be changed by God.

C: We offer our lives to God’s service.

L: We are called to this place to be equipped by God.

C: We are here to be God’s church! Use us as you will, O God.

*HYMN

The Risen Christ

3179 W&S

*OPENING PRAYER

LD

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is always with you,

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

C: O God, without your presence this gathering is meaningless. We invite you to come to receive our worship, and we pray that it will be pleasing in your sight. We believe that you will meet us, and that we will be changed because we have been with you. May you receive great glory for all that happens in this place today. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Greet your neighbor in the love and peace of Christ

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Karen Kelly

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

in Room 12 & 15 downstairs

David Clark/Riffat Hassan

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE FOR BEAUTY OF CREATION

God, our Creator of heaven and earth, how blessed we are to be surrounded by the beauty of your creation. We lift our prayer of gratitude as we see the stars of heaven, and the beauty of the sunset. We are amazed by the seas and waterways and all that are in them. We are enchanted by the flowers and trees which are clothed by you. We are awed by all animals you created. For the beauty of the earth, the mountains and valleys, the sun and the moon—we give you praise. Amen.

~Author Unknown

THE PSALTER

Psalm 24
(Response 1)

774-775 UMH
SM

*HYMN

This Is My Father's World

144 UMH

Proclamation of God's Word

SERMON TEXT

John 10: 11-18 (NRSVUE)

SM

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"It's About Relationships"

Rev. L. Dore

Response to the Word

ANTHEM

Lamb of God
Twila Paris

Chancel Choir

MORNING PRAYER

THE JOYFUL GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Gentle Shepherd
Trad. Irish Melody, Arr. Kevin Keil

AE

*DOXOLOGY

94 UMH

Send Forth to Serve

*HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

381 UMH

*SENDING FORTH

P: May God go before us to show us the way

C: Behind us to encourage us, above us to watch over us

P: Below us to lift us up

C: And within us, so others might always see the light of Christ shining through our lives. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Rise, Shine, You People
Dale Wood, Arr. Kevin Hildebrand

AE

Our Psalter today is Psalm 24, found on page 755-756 in the blue United Methodist Hymnal. We will listen to Sung Response #1 as it is played and then we will sing together each time the red R appears. Let us sing and read responsively:

Response 1: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

R

The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof,

the world and those who dwell therein;

for God has founded it upon the seas,

and established it upon the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in God's holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,

who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the Lord,

and vindication from the God of their salvation.

Such is the generation of those who seek the Lord,

who seek the face of the God of Jacob. R

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the Ruler of glory may come in.

Who is the Ruler of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the Ruler of glory may come in.

Who is the Ruler of glory?

The Lord of hosts, the Lord is the Ruler of glory! R

Today's Sermon Text is from John 10: 11-18 in the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition:

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."