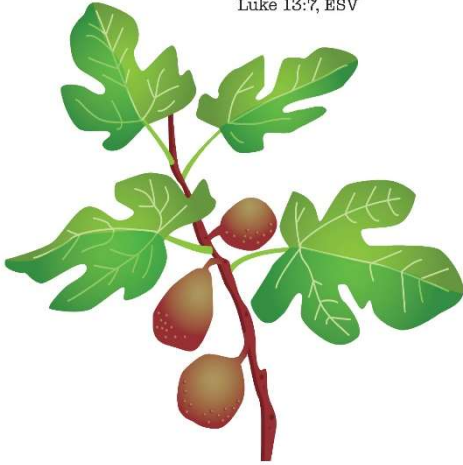


"I have come  
seeking fruit  
on this fig tree ..."  
Luke 13:7, ESV



## Great Falls United Methodist Church

10100 Georgetown Pike ☩ Great Falls, VA 22066

703-759-3705 ☩ www.greatfallsumc.org

Reverend Livingstone S. Dore, Pastor

April 14, 2024 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

**"Patience is not an absence of action;  
rather it is 'timing.'  
It waits on the right time to act."**

~Fulton J. Sheen

### *We Gather in Praise and Worship*

GATHERING

Trumpet in Dialogue

Amy Ackerberg-Hastings

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

Organist

WELCOME & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Richard Lankford

CENTERING

Thine Is the Glory

AA

Arr. Charles Callahan

*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

RL

L: We gather here to form a community of faith called Great Falls United Methodist Church.

**C: The grace of God draws us together and molds us into the church.**

L: Let us worship God, whose spirit infuses the church.

**C: Let us worship God, who empowers us to bear witness in the world.**

\*HYMN

He Lives

310 UMH

\*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: We are grateful for Sunday worship, O God. We are grateful for the interruption of the stress and hectic nature of our week. On Sunday we can think about the purpose of our lives, our mission as the church and our relationship to you. As we worship, touch us deeply enough that we can be refreshed and remade, both as individuals and as your church. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Greet your neighbor in the love and peace of Christ*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

in Room 12 & 15 downstairs

Margaret Brown/Riffat Hassan

MORNING PRAYER

\*HYMN

In His Time

2203 FWS

## *Proclamation of God's Word*

THE PSALTER

Psalm 40  
*(with response)*

774-775 UMH

RL

SERMON TEXT

Luke 13: 1-9 (CEB)

RL

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**“The Art of Waiting”**

Rev. L. Dore

## *Response to the Word*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we confess our hurry, our busyness, our rushing about. We fight against stillness, against quiet, against waiting. In this day and age, waiting is an inconvenience and stirs in us anger and frustration. Yet, what we need is to wait on you. You have asked us to wait – to be still, to listen, to quiet ourselves, to wait. It is in those moments when we sit in waiting that we are able to hear you, to feel you, to experience your sweet presence. Slow us down, God. Help us to relish stillness, to love quiet, and to embrace waiting. Thank you for your grace as we put this into practice. Amen.**

THE JOYFUL GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus  
Arr. Charles Callahan

AA

\*DOXOLOGY

94 UMH

## *Send Forth to Serve*

\*HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

140 UMH

\*SENDING FORTH

\*POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign  
Arr. Raymond Haan

AA

*Our Psalter today is Psalm 40, found on page 774-775 in the blue United Methodist Hymnal. We will listen to the sung response as it is played and then we will sing together each time the red R appears. Let us sing and read responsively:*

**Response: O Lord, do not withhold your mercy; let your steadfast love preserve me.**

**R**

I waited patiently for the Lord, who inclined to me and heard my cry.

**The Lord drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

**Many will see and be in awe, and put their trust in the Lord. R**

Blessed are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods!

**O Lord my God, you have multiplied your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!**

Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be numbered.

**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; but you have given me an open ear.**

Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

**Then I said, "Lo, I come; in the roll of the book it is written of me; I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." R**

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;

**lo, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.**

I have not hid your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

**I have not concealed your steadfast love and faithfulness from the great congregation**

O Lord, do not withhold your mercy from me,

**let your steadfast love and faithfulness ever preserve me! R**

*Today's Sermon Text is from Luke 13: 1-9 in the Common English Bible*

**13** Some who were present on that occasion told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He replied, "Do you think the suffering of these Galileans proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans?" <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did. <sup>4</sup> What about those eighteen people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that they were more guilty of wrongdoing than everyone else who lives in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did."

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told this parable: "A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> He said to his gardener, 'Look, I've come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I've never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil's nutrients?' <sup>8</sup> The gardener responded, 'Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. <sup>9</sup> Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"