



April 21, 2024
 Fourth Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER

WELCOME

Jennifer Young

CENTERING

PRELUDE

Slow Air

Composer: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983, arr. Robin Wells, b. 1943

Publisher: Novello & Company Limited

Dr. Michael Wu, Organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Katie Cope, Liturgist

ONE:	The call of Christ is this:
ALL:	Love one another.
ONE:	The law and the prophets teach this:
ALL:	Love one another.
ONE:	The world calls us to fulfill our desires;
ALL:	Christ commands us to love one another.
ONE:	We do this best not in word or speech,
ALL:	But in truth and action.
ONE:	Beloved, let us love one another,
ALL:	For Christ first loved us. Come, worship God, who is Love.

WORD

ANTHEM

Our Mission Bold and Blest

Composer: Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

Words: Delores Dufner, b. 1939

Publisher: GIA Publications, Inc.

Chancel Choir: Dr. Michael Wu, Director

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Katie Cope, Liturgist

ONE: Lord, we confess we do not like it when the entire world is turned upside-down. We are only human and like consistency and predictability. We do not do well with disruption and change.

ALL: But, you sent us the living Christ to create justice. Therefore as the world is turned upside-down, let every lowly person be exalted and everyone in power be lowered. Help us to make justice roll down like waters and righteousness an ever-flowing stream, we pray. Amen

ONE: Beloved, the Psalmist reminds us, "When I look at the night sky and see the work of God's hands— the moon and the stars set in place— what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor." ([NLT](#))

God is so much bigger than we can imagine. In fact, God is big enough to grant us forgiveness and grace. Thanks be to a God that big.

PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Katie Cope, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 17:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Katie Cope, Liturgist

MESSAGE: "It Won't Be Easy"

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

***HYMN #361**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Words: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776

Music: Thomas Hastings, 1830

Chancel Choir and Congregation

Dr. Michael Wu, Organ

WONDER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Katie Cope, Liturgist

WHAT NOW

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

***HYMN #573**

O Zion, Haste

Words: Mary A. Thomson, 1894

Music: James Walch, 1875

Chancel Choir and Congregation

Dr. Michael Wu, Organ

SENDING FORTH

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

POSTLUDE

Pièce d'Orgue, BWV 572

Composer: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Dr. Michael Wu, Organ

SERVING US TODAY

Acolyte: Cora Miller and William Hahs

Altar Guild for April: Dawn Adair Johnson

Audio Visual Volunteers: Debbie Spriggs, Jason Spriggs and Eric Winchenbach

Chat Room Host: Mary Stark

Congregational Welcome: Jennifer Young

Fellowship Hosts: Emily Sama-Miller and Ryan Miller

Liturgist: Katie Cope

Nursery Staff: Mary Gordon and Tessa Ricketts

Sunday School Teachers: Dawn Adair Johnson and Sally Stolz

Welcome Team: Arvina Dalaya Gadre and Bill Maas

FAITH UMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

Ann Bartlow, Organist

André Coleman, Tenor Section Leader

Valerie Kunsman, Office Administrator

Curtis Osborne, Coordinator of Intergenerational Nurture

Tessa Ricketts, Nursery Staff

Kim Webster, Finance Manager

Dr. Michael Wu, Music Director

Acknowledgements: Call to Worship and Opening Prayer: <http://rev-o-lution.org/worship-resources-for-april-21-2024-fourth-sunday-of-easter-earth-sunday/>; Christian Copyright Licensing International #20292994