

BETHESDA UNITED METH ODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 7 April 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements

Greeting: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you will renew the face of the earth.
(Book of Prayers, U.S.A., 20th Cent.)

*Praise Choruses: 2115 "Christ Has Risen"
2196 "We Walk by Faith"

Opening Prayer*:

O Lord, your wondrous birth means nothing
unless we are born again,
your death and sacrifice mean nothing
unless we die to sin,
your resurrection means nothing if you be risen alone.
**Raise and exalt us, O Savior,
both now to the estate of grace
and hereafter to the state of glory;
where with the Father and the Holy Spirit
you live and reign, God for ever and ever. Amen.**
(Eric Milner-White, England, 20th Cent., Alt.)

*Opening Hymn: 384 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 596 "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word"
(Verse 1 only)

First Lesson: Acts 4:32-35

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Psalter: 850 Psalm 133

Second Lesson: 1 John 1:1-2:2

*Hymn of Preparation: 561 "Jesus, United by Thy Grace"

*Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 888 Affirmation from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6
and Colossians 1:15-20

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

The Peace: Let us offer one another signs
of reconciliation and love.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people,
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering: Offertory

*Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

**O God, our bread, our milk, and our honey:
In the resurrection of your Son
you have brought us to your table.
Feed us with your plenty,
and enlarge our table for all the hungry;
through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia.**
(Jn 6:35; 1 Pet 2:2; Ezek 3:3)

Taking the Bread and Cup (Page 15ff) **All are welcome**

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SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 307 "Christ Is Risen"

*Closing Prayer: *(Sing to Tune 57)*

**Breathe on us, Lord, in this our day,
and these dry bones shall live;
Speak peace into our hearts, and say,
"The Holy Ghost receive!"**
(Charles Wesley, 1739)

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

*Going Forth

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