

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 16 April 2023
Second Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE

Announcements: *(To help us connect, please sign
the attendance pad in your pew)*

Praise Choruses: 3018 "Creation Sings"
3088 "Easter Alleluia"

*Greeting**:
Come to Christ, that living stone,
rejected by the world,
but in God's sight chosen and precious.
**We have responded to Christ's call,
and seek to be built into a spiritual house,
a living reminder of God's presence on earth.**
Once we were no people,
but now we are God's people,
called out of the darkness
into God's marvelous light.
Therefore we sing with the Church in all ages:
Blessed be your name, O God, our Redeemer.
**By your mercy we have been born anew
to a living hope through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead.**
Amen.** *(Ruth Duck, U.S.A., 20th Cent.)*

*Opening Hymn: 304 "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

*Opening Prayer**:
Lord of life, submitting to death,
you conquered the grave.
By being lifted on a cross
you draw all peoples to you.
By being raised from the dead
you restored to humanity
all that we had lost through sin.

(2)

Throughout these fifty days of Easter
we proclaim the marvelous mystery
of death and resurrection.
For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity.
Amen. *James F. White, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: Page 6

First Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalter: 748 Psalm 16, response 1

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 1:3-9

*Hymn of Preparation: 175 "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

*Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

Sermon: "Signs "

Affirmation of Faith: 881 "The Apostles/ Creed,
Traditional Version"

Joys and Concerns

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

THANKSGIVING

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"

(3)

*Prayer of Petition and Thanksgiving**:

In the peace of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**that he may fill us with the joy of his holy
and life-giving resurrection...**

**that he may provide through us
for those who lack food, work, and shelter...
that by his love, wars and famine may cease
through all the earth...**

**that isolated and persecuted churches
find fresh strength in the gospel...**

**that all those who have gone before us
in the faith of Christ**

may find refreshment, light, and peace.

**We offer ourselves and our gifts in glad thanksgiving
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

(U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)

. *The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 310 "He Lives"

*Blessing: The grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God,
and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with all. **Amen.**

*Postlude/Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

**THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP Copyright
(C) 1992 by The United Methodist Publishing House