

Order of Worship: Sunday, April 24, 2022

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Prelude *Variations on "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"* arr. H. Hopson
Gaye Herndon, organ

Welcome Cara Fleischer, Creation Care Leader

Gathering Praise (11:00 service): *It Was Good*, M. Burrows Kids@Art Choir

Call to Worship: Fotena Zirps, liturgist (online)

L: Let us gather together, open our holy book, and read from its pages.

P: **May we be attentive and hear with understanding.**

L: Do not be grieved, for this is a holy day, filled with celebration!

P: **The joy of the Lord is our strength! Hallelujah! Amen.**

Opening Hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King* UMH #62

Affirmation of Faith "Affirmation for All Creation"

Adapted from the Lenten series *Journey into Wholeness* written by Christine Sine

We believe in God above us,
Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.

We believe in Christ beside us,
Companion and friend, redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.

We believe in Spirit deep within us,
Advocate and guide, who dwells with us eternally.

We believe in God's resurrection kingdom,
Where all things are made new, and fit together in vibrant harmony.

We believe in God above, beside, and within,
God yesterday, today and forever, the three in one, the one in three, and our oneness in Christ.

We believe in God.

Gloria Patri

Prayer/Lord's Prayer Fotena Zirps, liturgist (online)

Anthem *Medley of God's Care*, arr. J. Trivette Debbie and Gary Eggebraaten

Announcement of Pastoral Appointments

Children's Moment Jessie Perry, Garden Co-Leader

Scripture Nehemiah 8:1-3, 9-12

¹ all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "**This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.**" For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, **for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**" ¹¹ So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Be quiet, **for this day is holy; do not be grieved.**" ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Sermon "Reform: Wrecked and Rejoicing" Rev. Becky Rokitowski

Closing Hymn *For the Healing of the Nations* UMH #346

Closing Prayer

God, wreck our hearts for the things that wreck yours. Transform, heal, and make us new.

Put us to action for the healing of the nations and the earth. May your joy be our strength! Amen.

Postlude *Crown Him with Many Crowns*, setting by M. Burkhardt