

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2023**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship *(Time for Silent Preparation)*

! Call to Worship *(Responsively)* *Bonnie Mecaughey*
Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

! Invocation *Bonnie Mecaughey*

Ever present God,
we thank you for calling us to meet with you today.
We praise you for coming to us long before we first came to you,
for knowing who would be here today,
and for knowing even our motives for coming.
By your Spirit lead and guide us during this service,
to help us hear you when you speak
and to guide our responses with hearts and voices
that rejoice in your presence. **Amen.**

! Hymn 76 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession *Bonnie Mecaughey*

The proof of God's amazing love is this:
While we were sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession *(Responsively)*

Bonnie Mecaughey

Lord, you showed us true humility by becoming one of us,
yet too often we practice pride.
You cried alongside your friends and for the city of Jerusalem,
yet too often we rush past the pain of others and are careless about our cities.
You loved those who were weak, despised, or cast out,
yet too often we love those who are strong, respected, or popular.
You freely forgave and healed,
yet too often we hold grudges and cause pain.
You lived a perfectly holy life,
yet too often we do not yearn for righteousness.
You prayed that we who believe in you should be united with each other and you,
yet too often we focus on the differences that separate us from other believers.
You were mocked, whipped, and even killed for us,
yet too often we deny you.
You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
yet too often we blend into or hide from our culture.
Forgive us, Lord, so that we will shine with your glory. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Bonnie Mecaughey

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me,
and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

 **Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and
pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Offering

Offertory

 **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;*

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

 **Prayer of Dedication**

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us— our selves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us— Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

 **Hymn 451**

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon

God's Recipe for Life

Val Fieo

Scripture Reading

1 John 2:1-6

² My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous one. ² He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

³ This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commands. ⁴ The one who says, "I have come to know him," and yet doesn't keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.

Sermon

"Walk in His Commandments!"
Rev. Tim Latham

 **Hymn 380**

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*⁴

Responding
We respond to God's Word

 **Profession of Faith** (Colossians 1)

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,**

**whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.**

Prayers of the People

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses



Jesus, I Come

Verse 1

*Out of my bondage sorrow and night
Jesus I come Jesus I come
Into Thy freedom gladness and light
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of my sickness into Thy health
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth
Out of my sin and into Thyself
Jesus I come to Thee*

Verse 2

*Out of my shameful failure and loss
Jesus I come Jesus I come
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of earths sorrows into Thy balm
Out of lifes storms and into Thy calm
Out of distress into jubilant psalm
Jesus I come to Thee*

Verse 3

*Out of unrest and arrogant pride
Jesus I come Jesus I come
Into Thy blessed will to abide
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love
Out of despair into raptures above
Upward forever on wings like a dove
Jesus I come to Thee*

Verse 4

*Out of the fear and dread of the tomb
Jesus I come Jesus I come
Into the joy and light of Thy home
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of the depths of ruin untold
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold
Ever Thy glorious face to behold
Jesus I come to Thee*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

*This morning's Prayer Partners are
Bernie Hughes, Jim Fox*

 **Postlude**