

MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Leading in Worship: Valerie Young and Leslie Neihouse

April 14, 2024

In Person and Facebook Live

10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Liturgist

Prelude:

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Maryrose Beerman & Joyce Walker

Call to Worship (**responsive**):

Liturgist

God invites and calls us into His presence to worship Him. He enters into our busy lives to speak to us.

One: The bread of life opens our eyes.

All: The word of life opens our ears.

One: The risen one shows us God's own brokenness,

All: and by those wounds we are healed.

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

Congregational Hymn # 248:

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

*In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.*

*Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.*

*Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.*

*Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.*

*Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!*

Call to Confession

Liturgist

Prayer of Confession (**unison**):

Good and gracious God, we are creatures of dust, ignorant of your revelation, misunderstanding your life, death, and resurrection among us, needing forgiveness. We repent of our failure to give as you have given to us. We beg your mercy for our fallen world. We seek your Word, that we may live with the faith of Jesus. Be our solace in this life and always. We ask this as your own children, holy and incomplete. Forgive us and lead us. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness (**responsive**):

Liturgist

One: In the name of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your plea for absolution has been heard. God's promises are sure: your sins are forgiven. Peace be with you.

All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music:

By Our Love

Jeana Lutz, soloist

Prayer for Illumination

Valerie Young

Reading:

Romans 12:9-21

Page 196, NT

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Message:

Our Journey

Valerie Young

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith:

The Apostles' Creed

Liturgist

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Liturgist

The Lord's Prayer (**unison**)

a reworking by Rev Josephine Inkpin

Breath of our every fibre, flowing in and beyond the stars, may we rejoice in your ever-renewing life. May your love flourish, may your peace be known, in all beings and becomings. Sustain us in what we need. Transform the suffering we inflict, as we transform the suffering we endure. Free us from all that crushes joy, and keep us from unbearable pain. Let your way be our journey, your truth our story, and your life our coming home, now and always, Amen.

Invitation to Live Generously:

The offering basket is near the back door of the sanctuary.

You may also give online at www.merrittislandpc.org

Response:

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn # 306:

Blest Be the Ties That Bind (verses 1 - 3)

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.

And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

Charge and Benediction

Valerie Young

Postlude

How Firm A Foundation

Joyce Walker & Maryrose Beerman

Ushers: Cheryl & Fred Mahan, Lorrie Peek

Attendance Last Week: In Person: 68, On Line: 15

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today, whether you are here in person or online! We gather together as a church family, from wherever we may be. If you would like to know more about MIPC, how you can be more involved, or to speak to the pastor, please contact the church office at the number/email below.

We Welcome Valerie Young to our pulpit today! Valerie serves as Synod Executive and Stated Clerk for the Synod of South Atlantic, and has served at the synod level in multiple positions since 2004. She has a bachelor's degree in Organizational Development from the University of North Texas, she also studied alternative dispute resolution and mediation. She completed her Certificate in Executive Leadership from McCormick Theological Seminary in 2014. Valerie is a Ruling Elder who has actively served the denomination in multiple Cursillo communities, on the Ruling Elder Advisory Team to the Office of the General Assembly, the NEXT Church Strategy Team, most recently as a co-moderator of the General Assembly Special Committee on Per Capita & Financial Sustainability. Valerie is married to avid disc golfer, John Young, is a proud mother of Tasha and BGE (Best Grandma Ever) to two grandsons, a DIY enthusiast and woodworker.

This Week is MIPC's 60th Anniversary! We will have a reception in the Narthex on April 21 after worship in celebration of this milestone. A larger covered dish gathering is being planned for later this summer.

The Flowers Today are given by Fred & Cheryl Mahan in honor of Fred's mother Helen Mahan Douglas' healthy 100th birthday. (Helen's photo is in the April issue of Merritt Island Now magazine.)

We wish Joyce and Dave Walker safe travels and a lovely summer. Thank you, Joyce, for your musical contributions to our worship service. We will see you in the fall!

Ways to Serve

5 Cents Per Meal: Today we receive this monthly offering which goes to food and hunger needs both locally and internationally. See the display in the Narthex and the specially marked envelopes near the offering basket; or you may just note "5 Cents/Meal" on your check. In April, 5 cents per meal equals \$4.50 - consider rounding up to \$5!

Ways to Connect

Adult Faith Enrichment Class: Join us for Adult Faith Formation at 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room or on Zoom. Our new study is *Journey of Faith* with Milt Seapker. All are welcome at any time! The Zoom link is emailed weekly.

Join us for coffee and snacks in the Narthex after worship today. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for anyone who would like to bring food one week.

Women's Ministry: Fabulous Fridays! Come and join us in the Activities Room every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m. for our Women's Bible Study Group. (Our next gathering is April 19.) Our study is titled "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts." For more information and questions: cj2hill@bellsouth.net or 321-431-5333.

Church Directory: We have set the date of June 1 to print a new official MIPC directory! There are interim directory copies in the Narthex; please check to make sure your contact information is correct, and contact the church office if there are any changes. There will be opportunities for new individual and family photos if you would like your picture updated - but you can also email the church office with a photo of you/your family that you would like us to use. (mipresbyterian@gmail.com) Thank you for helping keep our church directory information updated!

Celebrations & Concerns

Happy Birthday to:

April 15: Bert Hentschel

April 16: Laura Ficker

April 17: Sara Hall

April 19: Kara Ficker Toledo

April 19: MIPC

April 20: Phil Finney

Our Prayers are with:* Cindy Bottomley, Dot Corbett, Carolyn Crockett, Andre Koodie, Elaine Krieger, Janet Post, Kelly Shephard, George Wilcox, and Bob Willett.

** Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested. If you would like your prayer concern to be shared on our Prayer Chain Email (or if you'd like to be on the email distribution list), contact Jill Franklin at mipcprayerchain600@gmail.com, or make a note on the Prayer Request card in the pew.*

Thank you, Maryrose Beerman, Jeana Lutz, and Joyce Walker, for the beautiful music today!

THIS WEEK AT MIPC:

Monday, April 15, 11:15 AM	Staff Meeting, Session Room
Monday, April 15, 6:00 PM	Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, April 16, 3:00 PM:	Kids Klub, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 PM:	Finance Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, April 16, 8:00 PM:	AA, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, April 17, 3:30 PM:	One Purpose, Fellowship Hall
Thursday, April 18, 6:00 PM:	Square Dancers, Fellowship Hall
Friday, April 19, 2:00 PM	Fabulous Friday, Activities Room
Sunday, April 21, 9:00 AM:	Adult Faith Formation, Session Room
Sunday, April 21, 10:00 AM:	Worship Service -Kids Klub sing in worship
Sunday, April 21, 11:00 AM	Christ the King Church service, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, April 21, 3:00 PM	Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall

For more information on any of these events, check with the church office.

Rev. Christina Greenawalt, Pastor

Maryrose Beerman, Acting Music Director
Tammy Lewis, Preschool Director
Leslie Mitchell, Financial Secretary
James Neihouse, Live Feed Director/Producer
www.merrittislandpc.org

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