



SUNDAY, APR. 26, 2026, 9 A.M.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

This worship experience will be livestreamed and recorded.

Prelude

Prelude on BEACH SPRING
attr. Benjamin F. White, arr. Deanna Witkowski

Deanna Witkowski, piano

There is a Balm in Gilead
African-American spiritual, arr. Deanna Witkowski

Welcome

Pastor Mary Zajac

Introit

Let My Prayer Rise (Psalm 141)
Deanna Witkowski

Congregation (Refrain):

Let my prayer rise _____ be - fore you as in - cense;
the lift - ing of my hands as the mor - ning sac - ri - fice.
Let my prayer rise _____ be - fore you as in - cense;
the lift - ing of my hands as the mor - ning sac - ri - fice.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff is the refrain, followed by two lines of the main text. The lyrics are: 'Let my prayer rise _____ be - fore you as in - cense; the lift - ing of my hands as the mor - ning sac - ri - fice. Let my prayer rise _____ be - fore you as in - cense; the lift - ing of my hands as the mor - ning sac - ri - fice.'

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*Call to Worship

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

(continued)

*Passing of the Peace

*Opening Hymn

We Belong to God (Psalm 100)
Deanna Witkowski




With sing - ing, we make a joy - ful noise and join with all the earth. In



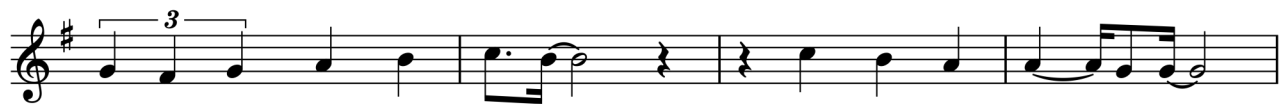
1. Last time to Coda ☉

sing - ing, God's pres - ence is here: we wor - ship and are glad. With




2, 3, 4.

1. We know the Lord is God, for
2. We give our thanks to God, and we
3. The Lord is tru - ly good and God's
glad.



3.

God is the One who made us. We are God's peop - le;
en - ter God's courts with praise; we bless and hon - or God;
stead - fast love en - dures, en - dures for - ev - er;



sheep of God's pas - ture; With
our hearts give thanks and praise, for we be - long to God.
our hearts give thanks and praise,



☉ Coda (repeat ad lib.)

3.

We are God's peo - ple; we be - long to God.

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Scripture Readings

Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 2:19-25

Nancy Turner

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Magnificat

Words on Screens

Children's Time

Carey Williams Bebar
Director of Christian Education

Reflecting on the Word

Life After Resurrection

Pastor Mary Zajac

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

*Reflection Hymn

God Is Here

Hymnal 660

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Barb Good

Offertory

Make My Joy Complete
Deanna Witkowski

Chancel Choir
Collective Joy

Gifts can also be made at garychurch.org/give or by texting "give" to 630-320-0668.

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal 94

*Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings

*Sending Hymn

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Words on Screens
and Next Page of Bulletin

*Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on "Let My Prayer Rise"
Deanna Witkowski

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



1. God, whose giv - ing knows no en - ding, _____ from your rich and
2. Skills and time are ours for press - ing _____ toward the goals of
3. Trea - sure, too, you have en - trus - ted, _____ gain through pow'rs your



end - less store: nat - ure's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, _____
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, _____
grace con - ferred; ours to use for home and kin - dred, _____



cost - ly cross, grave's shatt - ered door, gif - ted by you, we turn
rac - es joined, the Church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
and to spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, off' - ring up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone; born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, grac - ious don - or of our days. _____
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne. _____
and re - claim - ing, ser - ving you by lov - ing all. _____

Deanna Witkowski



Winner of the 2002 Great American Jazz Piano Competition, pianist, composer and scholar Deanna Witkowski moves with remarkable ease between Brazilian, jazz, classical and sacred music. Her first book, *Mary Lou Williams: Music for the Soul* (Liturgical Press), is the winner of the 2022 ASCAP Foundation Deems Taylor/Virgil Thomson Award and the 2022 Jazz Journalists Association Award for Biography of the Year. Her seventh recording, *Force of Nature* (MCG Jazz), featuring her trio and quartet arrangements of compositions by Williams, reached number five on the JazzWeek nationwide radio chart and remained in the top ten most played albums on jazz radio for more than ten weeks.

In 2024, Witkowski completed her PhD in jazz studies at the University of Pittsburgh and is currently writing her second book, *Jazz in the Pews: Experiments in Sunday Worship in the 1960s*. Her 2025 awards include the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation/Jazz Education Network research fellowship and a project grant from The Crossroads Project supported by the Henry Luce Foundation and Princeton University.

Dedicated to bringing communities together through jazz, Witkowski has worked as a guest music leader in over one hundred churches across the United States. Her weekly video series, “Off the Page: Sacred Jazz,” shares practical resources for church musicians and her jazz hymn arrangements that appear on her recording, *Makes the Heart to Sing: Jazz Hymns*, have been purchased by over 500 churches. A prolific choral composer, Witkowski has won multiple competitions for her concert and sacred works. Her modern justice anthem, “We Walk in Love,” is part of the Justice Choir Songbook and has been sung at the 16th anniversary of the Little Rock Nine at Central High School in Arkansas in 2017, at the 2018 St. Olaf Choral Festival and as the closing song at the 2020 Chorus America conference.

In 2025-26, Witkowski directed the jazz ensemble at Wheaton College and co-directed the jazz combo program at Evanston Township High School. In June, she will be relocating to Rochester, New York. Her recordings, book and songbook are available at the table in the Commons as well as at deannajazz.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to: Pam Keller and Hanna Keller on the birth of their grandson and nephew, August Breese Huppert, on Apr. 15.

This morning, Sun., Apr. 26, at Gary Church:

- **In-Person Worship:** 9 and 11:11 a.m. Assisted listening devices and large print hymnals are available by asking an usher. Livestream and recorded worship are available at garychurch.org.
- **Sunday School:** 10 a.m. for all ages.
- **Special Blend Fellowship:** 10 a.m., Commons. The Green Team invites you to bring your own small reusable cup with a lid.
- **Love Your Neighbor:** 10:10 a.m., led by Dr. Andrew Decort. Join us for a history of 'love your neighbor as yourself' – not as an abstract idea or moral imperative but as a world-shaping movement centering the conversation on the embodied ethics of Jesus.

New Men's Bible Study: Tues., Apr. 28, 6:30 p.m., Anderson Room, led by Steve Novy. We will study *The Holy Spirit; God's Presence and Power at Work in Us* by Adam Hamilton. Books available in the Commons.

Prayers for Peace: Fri., May 1–Sun., May 31, Courtyard. Take a ribbon from the Welcome Desk, write your prayer for peace on it, and then tie the ribbon to the fence in the Courtyard. Ribbons will be displayed throughout the month of May.

NIC Creation Care Summit: Sat., May 2, 9 a.m.–12 p.m., Arlington Heights: First UMC. Attend this Northern Illinois Conference summit with members of Gary's Green Team. Register at garychurch.org.

Plants with a Purpose delivery: Sat., May 2, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Parking Lot. Pick up your order and/or shop the extras. Volunteers are needed to help, especially from 8–10:30 a.m. Sign up at garychurch.org.

Walk as One for Peace on World Labyrinth Day: Sat., May 2, 1–2 p.m. Courtyard. People all over the world will be walking labyrinths at 1 p.m. local time to pray for peace. Join labyrinth facilitator Cathy Smith to walk Gary's labyrinth. All are welcome. Contact Cathy (office@garychurch.org) for more information.

Caring for Creation: Sundays, May 3 and 10, 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room. Join us for this series on caring for all creation. *May 3:* Stewarding Creation with Native Plants. *May 10:* Talking About Climate Change.

Prescription for Life fundraiser: Pick up a prescription bottle at Gary and fill it with money to help seniors at Outreach Community Center. Donations can also be made at garychurch.org. Return bottles and donate by Sun., May 3.

CROP Walk: Sun., May 3, check-in 1 p.m., walk 2 p.m., Glen House Snack Center, 800 Roosevelt Rd., Glen Ellyn. Portions of our donations support DuPage Seniors, the People's Resource Center and Glen House Food Pantry. Donate and/or register to walk at garychurch.org.

Habitat for Humanity: Tues., May 5–Fri., May 8, Lafayette, IN. Help to build affordable housing. If you'd like to help for one day or more, contact Lois Davisson (office@garychurch.org). Donations to Habitat are also welcome at garychurch.org.

Open call: Artists (ages 14 and up) are invited to explore the theme of "Courageous Love" for Gary's Art Gallery, Jun. 5–7. Deadline for submissions is Tues., May 5. Download the application at garychurch.org. Questions? Contact creativearts@garychurch.org.

Blood Drive: Wed., May 6, 2-6 p.m., Commons. Spring into action and register to donate blood at garychurch.org.

WALL-E movie Event: Wed., May 13, 6:30 p.m., Chapel. The Green Team invites all ages. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs and/or pillows if you'd like. Additional seating will be available. We'll provide the snacks as you watch WALL-E, featuring themes of environmental stewardship and mutual care.

Sign books for Gary's high school graduates: Stop by the Commons during May and add words of love and encouragement to the book, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* During worship on Sun., May 31, 9 a.m., we'll pray over our graduates and present them with the book, along with an afghan, made by Gary's knitters.

Celebrating 2026 graduates: Gary Church wants to recognize 2026 graduates from high school, college or vocational school. The names will be printed in an upcoming edition of the *Chimes* newsletter. Fill out the form by Sun., May 17, at garychurch.org if you know anyone we can celebrate.

Explore Gary's history: Sun., May 24-Sun., May 31, Commons. You'll find photos, bulletins, Sunday School attendance records and more from Gary's 1853-1929 time-frame.

"Open Chair" Conversation and Prayer Ministry: On fair-weather days this spring and summer, Gary's pastors and staff will be offering a public conversation and prayer station outside the Wesley Center. Contact Pastor Daniel Cochran (dcochran@garychurch.org) with any questions.

Sign up for ESSE: May is Gary's month to provide homemade treats and activities for Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly, an adult day care. Contact the ESSE Wheaton/St. Paul Lutheran Church office at 630-260-3773 to schedule your activity.

Crayon recycling: Bring your old crayons to donate to SCARCE during the month of May. Drop them off in the bins near the Children's Desk. SCARCE will melt the crayons and mold them into new, larger shapes for differently-abled students!

Call for summer musicians: Do you sing, play an instrument, whistle or have a clapping ensemble? Share your musical gifts in worship this summer! There is room for all ages and abilities. Contact Joshua Velez (jvelez@garychurch.org) for more information and to sign up.

VBS/BLAST Camp: Mon., Jun. 22-Thurs., Jun. 25, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Volunteers and participants can sign up for Vacation Bible School (preschool 4s-incoming 4th graders) and BLAST Camp (incoming 5th-8th graders) at garychurch.org/registrations.

Register for Family Camp: Fri., July 17-Sun., July 20, Westfield, WI. Families of all ages and sizes are invited to Pine Lake Camp to spend a weekend growing closer to God and each other through nature, worship and play. Register at garychurch.org.

Outreach Community Center helpers needed: Outreach provides rides for older adults using their bus. Volunteers are needed to assist people and their bags, work the handicap lift and keep track of who gets off/on at each stop. To volunteer, contact Barbara Holmes (office@garychurch.org).

Current needs for DuPagePads: Your help is needed to supply their clients with microwavable meals, canned chilis, men's boxer shorts, Ziploc snack bags, non-scratch sponges, paper plates and bowls. You can place the items in the bin in the Commons.

Worship Notes

A decorative border at the bottom of the page featuring a repeating pattern of stylized stained glass designs. The designs include red and blue geometric shapes, green leaf-like motifs, and yellow accents, all set against a dark background.

At Gary Church, our mission through Christ is to grow in joyful faith and serve all in love.
224 North Main Street, Wheaton, IL 60187 630-668-3100 www.garychurch.org