Easter Sunday

9 & 11 a.m. | March 31, 2024 St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT | AGAIN 🖑 AGAIN, GOD LOVES FIRST

READ John 3:14-21

FROM THE ARTIST | Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

My first memory of this passage is from writing "John 3:16" on my basketball shoes when I was in seventh grade, joining many of my teammates in blending our sport with our faith. I don't remember knowing what the verse really meant, but my display of it was to make a statement about who I was—or at least who I desperately wanted to be. Like the branded clothes I wore, or the way I styled my hair, this was just another way to curate my middle school self-image. I wanted to show that I was good, that I fit in, that I believed in God. Later that basketball season, I added another Sharpie pen tattoo to my basketball shoes: my mother's initials and the dates of her birth and death, marking the 44 years she lived. After her funeral, my teammates added her initials and the dates of her life to their sneakers in solidarity.

Now I know that Jesus originally spoke these famous words to Nicodemus, perhaps whispering them amidst the hushed noises of the night. I wonder why Nicodemus came to Jesus in the first place? Had Jesus' teachings uprooted his religious self-image, one carefully curated to project propriety and adherence to the law? Or had death recently left a sharp sting, unraveling his tidy beliefs, creating in him a well of desperate questions about eternal life?

Jesus speaks to him with poetry of promise: God didn't send his son to judge the world, but so the world might be restored through him. For God so loved. For God so loves, that like light, God keeps traveling to reach us with that redeeming love. In this abstract painting, the gold leaf marks become like a wave gliding through the cosmos, moving endlessly until it reaches everything.

As I think back to those Sharpie pen inscriptions on my basketball shoes, perhaps "For God so loved... so that everyone... will have eternal life" was the perfect companion to my mom's initials.

PRAY

Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image on the left. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, offering a silent or spoken prayer to God.

 Hymns + Songs | Pages are listed for the printed bulletin Numbers (#) are listed for music in the *Lift Up Your Hearts* (red) hymnal
 Bold Print | Speak or sing together in unison.

 Please rise in body or in spirit.













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Thoughts for Reflection

"No tabloid will ever print the startling news that the mummified body of Jesus of Nazareth has been discovered in old Jerusalem. Christians have no carefully embalmed body enclosed in a glass case to worship. Thank God, we have an empty tomb. The glorious fact that the empty tomb proclaims to us is that life for us does not stop when death comes. Death is not a wall, but a door."

- Peter Marshall

"Only after a disaster can we be resurrected."

- Chuck Palahniuk, Fight Club

Welcome + Announcements

Prelude | Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals, arr. by Sondra K. Tucker

✤ Call to Gather

The fragile babe who was born in a back-woods cattle cave; Today, he is free from a tomb of despair and death! The tiny child who was wrapped in tattered bands of cloth; Today, he is free from his constrictive shroud of linen! The lowly infant born among the last and the lost and the least; Today, he has been raised up in glory to the right hand of God! The tomb is empty! Deep grace has triumphed over a dead-end grave. The tomb is vacant! True life breaks forth through the bond and balm of love! The tomb is bare! For Christ goes ahead of us into Galilee— in promise, in hope, and in us—for we are. We are his risen and resilient body— Called to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things—

on this good and glorious day!

☞ Gathering Hymn | "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," versus 1-4, pg. 7 (*hymnal,* #182)

Prayer of Confession and Promise of Ever-Present Grace

Gracious and Ever-Guiding God,

you have walked patiently with us throughout our Lenten journey.

You have celebrated our successes and our growing understanding of your love; and you have mourned our failures and rejections of your hope-filled and healing mercies. This day, as we gather to celebrate the joy of Easter,

let us remember that we are called to become "Easter People," people of the Resurrection, people who know that what once was thought to be impossible has now been fully conquered.

Forgive our stubbornness and fears.

Fill us with your healing love

and help us to become the people

that you need to serve in the need-full places of the world.

For we ask this in the name of the Risen One,

who goes ahead of us into Galilee, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

A time for personal confession

Hold your heads high, for Christ has risen, He has risen up before our very eyes! Christ is calling us forward to a world where darkness and despair are defeated and truth and justice will hold sway; to a place where scarcity is forever banished and abundance can freely expand; to a community where the withholding of grace is no more and the law of love becomes the norm! Hold your heads high—

for Christ's deep love for the world flows like a fountain of forgiveness!

Hymn | "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done," pg. 8 (hymnal, #185)

✤ Sharing of Christ's Peace & Compassion

And now, as a visible sign of what it means to live together in the care and context of Christ's community, let us extend Christ's peace and compassion to those around us! The peace of Christ be with you all! And also with you!

Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 25:6-9 (Bible, pg. 568)

The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Time for Young Disciples

Gospel Reading | Mark 16:1-8 (Bible, pg. 829-830)

The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

The Prompting | Will You Go and Tell? | The Rev. W. Robert Martin III

Hymn of Response | Before Us Now in Galilee | words by W. Robert Martin III

Sung to the tune "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

1. Before us now in Galilee, Christ goes where few have ventured; and calls us forth that we might see the strife of justice censured. For still the power of hate its own world can create; The poor are tossed aside, then filled with cruel pride the mighty reap the bounty.

2. Before us now in Galilee, Christ walks with those discarded— The doomed, the damned, the detainee, the hurt and broken-hearted. For leaders may declare their practices are fair, Yet still the privileged reign, ignoring human pain. Their hearts bear no compassion. 3. Before us now in Galilee, Christ calls for true conviction For from the tomb he is now free, beyond Rome's crucifixion. He moves and dares to speak for those whose words are weak Among the least and last, Christ's presence now holds fast! It's here that we shall find him!

Offering Our Time, Treasure, and Talents

Offertory | Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, arr. by Cathy Moklebust

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Easter Prayer

Choral Anthem | "Hallelujah Chorus," from Messiah by G. F. Handel

Benediction

Postlude | Toccata from symphony No. 5, by Charles-Marie Widor

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. W. Robert Martin III and Rev. Kyle Otterbein, *pastors* (9 a.m.) Scott Fisher | (11 a.m.) Laurel Crusinberry, *worship leaders* Austen Wilson, *director of music ministries* Resound! | Laura Kastens, *assistant director of handbell ministries* Brass Ensemble



- 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head; Alleluia! Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!
- 5 Hail the Lord of earth and <u>heaven</u>! Alleluia! Praise to you by both be <u>given</u>; Alleluia! Risen Christ, triumphant now; Alleluia! Every knee to you shall bow. Alleluia!

THE STRIFE IS O'ER

An Alleluia introduction and coda is sung by the choir. All join immediately on the hymn.



Text: Finita iam sunt praelia; Latin, 12th C.; tr. by Francis Pott, 1832-1909, alt. Tune: VICTORY, 888 with alleluias; Giovanni da Palestrina, 1525-1594; adapt. by William H. Monk, 1823-1889

At the Table A New Monthly Worship Service 7 p.m. 1st Thursdays | The Hub

Sunday Solace

A Meditative Service of Scripture, Song, and Silence **4 p.m. | First Sundays**

CHURCH HISTORY: HUTTERITES & ANABAPTISTS A 2-WEEK CLASS WITH JOHN SHERIDAN

AFTER WORSHIP APRIL 7 & 14

Reminder of Upcoming Events

- At the Table | April 4
- Big Table | April 5
- Sunday Solace | April 7
- Spaghetti Lunch | April 7
- Handbell Choir Festival | April 12-13
- Senior Moments Coffee | April 16
- Coffee with Leaders | April 21
- Earth Sunday | April 21 | with guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Robert Traer
- 25Live Walk-a-Thon | April 25
- ETC Trivia Night | April 26
- Child-Led Worship Service | April 28
- At the Table | May 2
- ETC Night Games | May 3

Melodious Harmony The Arsenal Duo: In Concert 3 p.m. | May 4, 2024

- Melodious Harmony: Arsenal Duo | May 4
- Sunday Solace | May 5
- Guatemala Fundraiser | May 5
- Final Week of Sunday Classes | May 12
- Affirmation Milestones | May 19
- · Coffee with Leaders | May 19
- Pancake Breakfast & Sensory Fair | May 19
- Humanize My Hoodie Screening | May 19
- Senior Moments Coffee | May 21
- Sunday Solace | June 2
- Flamy Grant Concert | June 4
- Congregational Meeting | June 9
- Stronghold | June 9-14
- Coffee with Leaders | June 16
- VBS | June 17-21

Pastoral, Ministry, and Administrative Staff & Church Elected Officers

Pastors

Rev. W. Robert Martin III, *lead pastor & head of staff* | <u>rmartin@saintandrew-ic.org</u> Rev. Kyle Otterbein, *associate pastor* | <u>kotterbein@saintandrew-ic.org</u> Rev. Mark Wilson Martin, *pastor emeritus*

Administrative Ministries

John Benson, finance administrator | finance@saintandrew-ic.org Jeff Charis-Carlson, director of communications and media ministries | jcharisc@saintandrew-ic.org Amy Schmidt-Rundell, mission outreach coordinator | amysr@saintandrew-ic.org Tim Patrick, building & grounds coordinator | building@saintandrew-ic.org

Children's, Family & Student Ministries

Matt Moore, *director of student ministries* | <u>mmoore@saintandrew-ic.org</u> Thomas Hartley, *director of children's and family ministries* | <u>thartley@saintandrew-ic.org</u> Nichole Hoffman, *children's ministries outreach coordinator* | <u>nhoffman@saintandrew-ic.org</u> Sara Penn, *children's ministries activities coordinator* | <u>spenn@saintandrew-ic.org</u>

Music Ministries

Austen Wilson, director of music ministries | awilson@saintandrew-ic.org Laura Kastens, assistant director of handbell ministries | <u>lkastens@saintandrew-ic.org</u> Abby Chen, organist & accompanist | <u>achen@saintandrew-ic.org</u> Pat Penn, interim director of flute ensembles Wes Habley, interim director of reed ensembles

Elders

Class of 2024: Cade Benson, Jason Gehrs, Thomas Hartley, Sara Penn,

Karen Raynor, and Rebecca Schuchert

Class of 2025: Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Eric Goers, Jon Swearingen, and Bruce Walker

Class of 2026: Aaron Gibson, Mary Hausler, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, Josh Schilling, and Gregs Thomopulos

Deacons

Class of 2024: Kathi Anderson, Katherine Habley, Cody Neddermeyer, Pam & Phil Karp, Jenny Wilcox, and Elizabeth Young

Class of 2025: Erika Law Tuttle, Pat Penn, Amy & Jason Schmidt-Rundell, Kathy & Dave Duys, and Dedi Walker

Class of 2026: Daniel Chappo, Jim Halverson, Scott Hoffman, Jamie Tanas & Mettie Thomopulos

Finance Team

Class of 2024: Jason Schuchert, treasurer | Michelle DeGroot, assistant treasurer

Personnel Team (at large)

Class of 2024: Kent Short | Class of 2025: Lisa Shileny & Wes Habley | Class of 2026: Twila Finkelstein

Nominating Team (at large)

Class of 2024: Kyle Bernard, Nichole Hoffman, Lori Hudson & Emily Neddermeyer

Questions about Worship @ St. Andrew?

- Welcome! We are happy to have you join us today. If you would like more information about St. Andrew, please email office@saintandrew-ic.org.
- Our worship services begin in-person and online at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, followed by Sunday School and Adult Christian Education offerings from September to April and a variety of After Worship activities from May to August. The service usually begins with Welcome & Announcements a few minutes before 9:30 a.m.
- All ages are welcome in our worship services. Worship materials for all ages are available in **The Maker's Toolbox** outside the north entrance to the Sanctuary.
- Nursery care (up to age 2) is provided in the Lower Level throughout the morning. Programming for children (through Kindergarten age) begins in the Lower Level after the **Time for Young Disciples** on most Sundays and after the **Sharing of Christ's Peace and Compassion** on Communion Sundays.
- Large print hymnals, bibles, and bulletins also are available outside the Sanctuary doors. A T-Coil hearing assist loop is also available for those with this feature on their hearing aids.
- Unless otherwise designated, gifts given to the weekly offering—either in the offering plates or online support the church budget, including staff salaries, utilities, mission outreach, and all aspects of ministry at St. Andrew.
- To log into the St. Andrew Connect system, either download the St. Andrew App through the App Store/Google Play or visit <u>https://saintandrew.ccbchurch.com</u>.
- Permission to livestream the music in this service is from CCLI (#617801) and One License (A-711114).



Easter Flowers on the Chancel were donated by the following

Kathi & Mike Anderson

• in memory of Ken, Marjorie, & Monte Klink and Gary Anderson

John, Patricia, Allison,

Ryan, & Jared Benson

• in memory of Frank & Alice Benson and Carroll & Helen Dimmick

Allison & Kyle Bernard Jeff Charis-Carlson &

Chris Charis-Donelson

in memory of Linda Donelson
 Pat Cone-Fisher & Scott Fisher
 Jim & Ruth Dane

• in memory of their parents

• in memory of Don and Vivian Klotz

Vern Dengler &

Anne Humphreys-Dengler

 in memory of Elmer & Vernice Dengler, Connie & Ken Giesing and Chuck Goddard; and Robert Humphreys & Joyce Gault

Myrna Farraj

• in memory of John Farraj

Dan & Deb Fick

Lynne Ginsberg

• in memory of *Louis M. Ginsberg* Sally Mathis Hartwig

• in memory of *Gwen Lowe* **Gordon Hinz** | in memory of

Marie Hinz and Scott Hinz

Pamela & Phil Karp

• in memory of their parents Laura Kastens

Erika Law Tuttle & Michael Tuttle

• in memory of Constance Frey

Jim Seyfer, Steve, Katie, & Dory Martin | in honor of *Cindy Seyfer*, for her birthday today Kris McLure | in memory of *John McLure* Diane Norris | in honor of her parents,

Jim & Carol Horstmann

Sara & Jeremy Penn | in memory of Samantha and in honor of Isaac & Eleanor
Bryce & Rosemary Plapp
Sandy Reed

• In memory of *Don & Lucille Langlas, and Oscar Espinoza* | in honor of *Dian Boysen*

Mary Schmidt

• in memory of Rich and Tim Schmidt

- Amy & Jason Schmidt-Rundell
 - in honor of Mary Schmidt
- Wesley, Trenton, Spencer, Heidi, Erin, Kaitlyn & Emmitt Schmidt-Rundell
- in memory of *Rich "Opa" Schmidt* Kyle & Jessica Steele |

• in memory of *Bump, Barb & Bob Elliott* Brad, Sheila, Regan, & Greyden Stiles The Thomopulos Family

• in memory of our mother, *Florence Williams* and sister *Sarah McLaurin*

Kaethe & Victor Tobias | in memory of Ragna Kuehn and Thomas Lavan

Joan Van Hulzen | in honor and in memory of beloved ones who have gone before

Bruce & Dedi Walker Skip & Pat Wells

 in memory of Lori Harrington
 Jenny Wilcox | in memory of the Sobolik-Wilcox Family

Deb & Rich Wretman | in memory of *Frank & Marion Hazelton and Bob & Getty Wretman*