

## WELCOME

Pastor Harold Henderson

## PRELUDE

Maggie Tran

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Beth Gibson

Easter people, Christ is risen!

### **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Christ is risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up: How do we know? What's the proof? Is Resurrection real?

### **Within our questioning, Christ appears.**

We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ's resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

### **Within our certainty, Christ appears.**

Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God's salvific work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

### **We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and doubt, the resurrected Christ dwells among us! Amen.**

## HYMN UMH 310

"He Lives"

<sup>1</sup> I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today; I know that he is living, whatever foes may say. I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, he's always near.

*He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.*

<sup>2</sup> In all the world around me I see his loving care, and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair. I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast; the day of his appearing will come at last.

<sup>3</sup> Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King! The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find; none other is so loving, so good and kind.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea.**

**We believe God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth.**

**We believe that trusting in this mercy and grace helps us find the courage to move to those places where love is needed most.**

## GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

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. Amen. Amen.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"Just a Little Talk With Jesus"  
*arr. Rocap & Woodruff*

Carl Rocap and Mike Woodruff

## CALL TO PRAYER FWS 2193 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Alan Taylor

## LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

## GATHERING SONG FWS 2233 "Where Children Belong"

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: this is where children belong.

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

## SERMON

Fear<Less  
Jesus is Persistent  
*John 20:19-31*

Pastor Harold Henderson



- <sup>1</sup> Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died, as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied. Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer; let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!
- <sup>2</sup> Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save; Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave. Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room. He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.
- <sup>3</sup> Christ has risen to companion former friends who fear the night, sensing loss and limitation where their faith had once burned bright. They bemoan what is no longer, they expect no hopeful sign till Christ ends their conversation, breaking bread and sharing wine.
- <sup>4</sup> Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange. Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been - evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

**BENEDICTION****CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** W&S 3154 "Draw the Circle Wide"

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side. Draw the circle. Draw the circle wide.

**POSTLUDE**

Maggie Tran

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**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today's altar flowers are by the family of Carol Morris to celebrate her birthday, which is today.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

If you have prayers to be lifted up or wish to be part of the team who lifts up prayers, drop an email to [prayer@fumcgvn.org](mailto:prayer@fumcgvn.org) or go to <https://fumcgvn.org/PrayerRequest>.

**MISSION FOCUS - COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Our ministry focus for this Sunday is our Community Outreach Ministry. COM provides support to those in need in our community facing eviction, utility shut-off, and other financial challenges. Your second-mile giving will help them to continue helping others through this vital ministry. Please note "COM" on your gift. Thank you!

**OUR NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS TODAY**

Today, Pastor Harold will be starting us on our new sermon series titled "Fear < Less". Although "do not be afraid" is a very common directive throughout the scriptures, as human beings who've literally been biologically wired to experience fear in order to survive, it's a pretty tall order. This series encourages us not to focus on our inability to be fearless, but to focus on our ability to fear less because the resurrection of Jesus is proof that in the end, love and life will overcome evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

**DIAPER AND FORMULA DRIVE FOR APRIL**

This month, we are collecting diapers and formula for the Rural Women's Health Project. The Rural Women's Health Project (RWHP) is a local health justice non-profit that designs and implements projects that strengthen communities and their understanding of critical health and social justice issues. The diaper sizes and specific formula brands to meet the specific needs of those they are serving can be found on our web site at <https://fumcgvn.org/diapers>. Thanks in advance for sharing the love of the resurrected Christ all month long in this very tangible way!

**COMMUNION SERVICE AFTER WORSHIP TODAY**

A brief Service of Holy Communion will be held in the Shaw Memorial Chapel (located off the Fellowship Hall) immediately after worship today. If you'd like to receive this tangible expression of God's grace, please join us. Everyone is welcome!

**WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES**

The light of Jesus shines most brightly when our God-given time and talents are shared in service to others. Learn where you can volunteer by using the QR code above or visit [fumcgvn.org/ways-to-serve](http://fumcgvn.org/ways-to-serve)

**GIVE BY CHECK**

Place in a black offering box, or mail or bring to the Church Office at 419 NE 1st Street Gainesville, FL 32601



Have you considered long-term support of our church ministries through our Legacy Endowment Fund? For more details, contact [legacy@fumcgvn.org](mailto:legacy@fumcgvn.org)

**GIVE ONLINE**

use the QR code above or visit [fumcgvn.com/GiveOnline](http://fumcgvn.com/GiveOnline) or via the First UMC app