# **WORSHIP GUIDE**

April 23, 2023 3rd Sunday of Easter

WELCOME Pastor Beth Snarr
PRELUDE Gavan Mcvey

CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Harold Henderson

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

# Let us come before God with thanksgiving; with music and song!

It is good to sing praise to You, and make music to Your name, O Most High;

# to proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night.

Worship God with gladness; come into God's presence with joyful songs; with thanksgiving and praise!

# For God has taken away our garments of sadness and clothed us with joy that we might sing praise and not be silent!

We will sing of God's love forever! Young and old will hear, and rejoice.

# For Your unfailing love lasts forever; Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens above.

#### **HYMN** FWS 2115

"Christ Has Risen"

- <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.

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God, who rescues us from the power of darkness; who redeems us and sets us free.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Risen One, through whom all things were made, in heaven and on the earth.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, whose presence sustains us and whose breath renews all creation.

#### **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.

#### RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "We Gather Together" Chancel Choir arr. Heather Sorenson

CALL TO PRAYER UMH 707 (vs 2)

"Hymn Of Promise"

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Harold Henderson

**LORD'S PRAYER** UMH 895

**HYMN** 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** Got Hope? Pastor Beth Snarr Luke 24:13-35

# **HYMN** UMH 454

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

- <sup>1</sup> Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
- <sup>2</sup> Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!
- <sup>3</sup> Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

#### **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 Gavan Mcvey

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#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today's altar flowers are given in honor of Michael Ekbladh and in memory of Robert "B.J." Jackson in celebration of today's world premiere of *Requiem*.

#### **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@fumcgnv.org* or note it on the Connection Card.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR REVEREND DICK WILSON

The service for Dick Wilson will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 11:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary with a reception to follow. Please continue to keep Dick's wife Ruth Ann and their family in prayer.

#### **NEW SERMON SERIES - GOT HOPE?**

The Easter season is about living into the new reality of the resurrected Christ. The shocking news that death isn't the end of the human story takes some reorientation to begin to understand the implications of such a profound truth. So, the 50 days of Eastertide is when we let this knowledge wash over us, and we begin, with joy, to embrace this new way of living. Our "Got Hope?" sermon series will explore this living hope that's available to us in the midst of any hardships that come our way as individuals and as a community of faith. Got hope?... you bet we do!

### **REQUIEM PREMIERE TODAY!**

The world premiere of *Requiem* is today at 4:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary and live-streamed at https://fumcgnv.org/watch. If you are planning to attend on-campus, the Truist parking lot (across from First UMC) will be reserved for the concertgoers.

We're also so glad to have the Requiem's composer, Heather Sorenson, with us in worship today. Welcome and thank you, Heather!

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