



April 11, 2021
2nd Sunday of Easter
9:30 a.m.

Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.



Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Lately I've been wondering if a little death and resurrection might be just what the church needs right now, if maybe all this talk of waning numbers and shrinking influence means our empire-building days are over, and if maybe that's a good thing. Death is something empires worry about, not something gardeners worry about. It's certainly not something resurrection people worry about.

– Rachel Held Evans

Prelude

This Joyful Eastertide

arr. David Cherwien (b. 1957)

Welcome

* Song #240 (vv. 1 and 2)

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Refrain E C#m F#m B
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -

Fine
al - le - lu - ia! Praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B E
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B
1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,

E C#m F#m B
He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
Now we shall live for - ev - er.
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

This text and tune were created together in the context of an ecumenical, charismatic, missionary Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their energy and emphasis center in the opening and closing refrain's "Alleluia"—the essential Easter word of proclamation.

TEXT: Donald Fishel, 1971
MUSIC: Donald Fishel, 1971; arr. Betty Pulkingham and Donald Fishel, 1979
Text and Music © 1973 International Liturgy Publications

ALLELUIA NO. 1
8.8 with refrain

* Please stand in body or spirit

Opening Prayer

Scripture

Acts 4:32-35

During the season of Easter, the lectionary features readings from the book of Acts in place of Old Testament readings. The idea is that Acts continues the story of God's people that is found in the Old Testament. Acts is a companion volume to the gospel of Luke, telling the story of the Church's beginning and spread. The verses below speak of the community of faith that formed in Jerusalem in the wake of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

James Sledge

Offering Gifts and Song #312 (vv. 1 and 2)

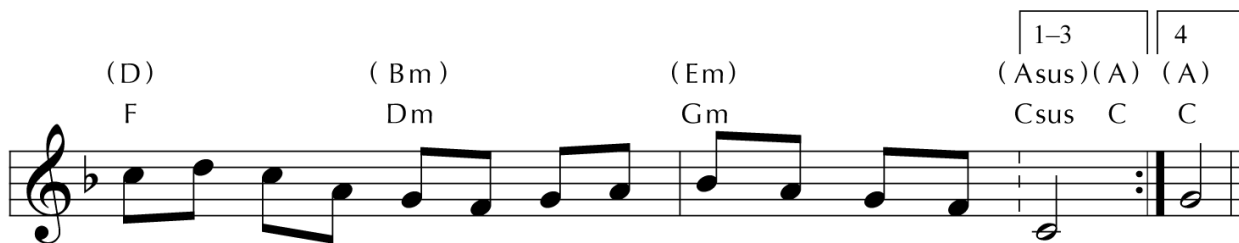
Take Us As We Are, O God



1 Take us as we are, O God, and claim us as your own. As
 2 Bless us for your ser - vice, Lord; no pow - er we de - vise will
 3 Break us o - pen to dis - close how bro - ken - ness can heal, wher -
 4 Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast, that



once you chose to tell your love in hu - man flesh and bone, so
 ev - er give us strength e - nough or make us tru - ly wise, yet
 ev - er bro - ken loaves suf - fice to give a crowd a meal and
 we may nour - ish in your name the last, the lost, the least, un -



let our lives be used to make your sav - ing pur - pose known.
 by your prom - ise we can know the peace your grace sup - plies.
 graves break o - pen to re - lease new life from death's dread seal.
 til at length you call us all to your un - end - ing feast.

Prayers of the People

Marnie Sarver

The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder currently serving on Session (governing council). We will sing the following petition prior to the prayer and at its conclusion. During the prayer itself, each petition will be followed by “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response “Hear our prayer.”



O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O
Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

This chant from the Taizé Community in France is provided with two sets of words, either of which can be used as best suits the occasion. The first text is based on Psalm 102:1-2, and the second is an amalgam of phrases drawn from Psalms 118:14, 25:5, 36:9, and John 4:14.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1982, 1991

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982

Text and Music © 1982 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

HEAR MY PRAYER

5.5.6.D

Prayers of concern

The family of Sarah Harry, friend of Jason Good, who passed away after a prolonged illness

Ashleigh Golub, hospitalized with complications of non-alcoholic cirrhosis and

COVID, and her husband Craig, dear friends of Tom Koger and Louise Phillips

Jeff Hobaugh, Jenny Lansbury's brother, following knee replacement surgery

Sabra Staley, at home recovering from a mild stroke

Bonnie Seklecki, recovering from a concussion

Educators, administrators, support staff, and students during the pandemic

Staff and residents of elder care facilities everywhere

First responders, health care providers, caregivers, essential employees, and all who continue to put their lives at risk during the pandemic

Continued prayers

Kris Barth, Allan Capon, Steve Graff, Mike Hugo, Laurel Kovach, Nora Long,

Sandy Martin, Ruth Mileham, Bob Moore, Cort Peret, James Steele, Lawson Swift,

Helen Waugh, Doris Webb, Charles Wirth

Communion of the People

Invitation to the Table, Prayer of Thanksgiving, and the Lord's Prayer

ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Communion Song #512

The Bread and Wine Are Here

Come in; sit down; there's room at the ta - ble;

en - joy the feast love has spread for you.

There are many dimensions to the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and this song focuses on the important theme of hospitality, with reference to Jesus' table ministry and his teaching about the reversal of social distinctions (Matthew 19:30/Mark 10:31/Luke 13:30/Matthew 20:16).

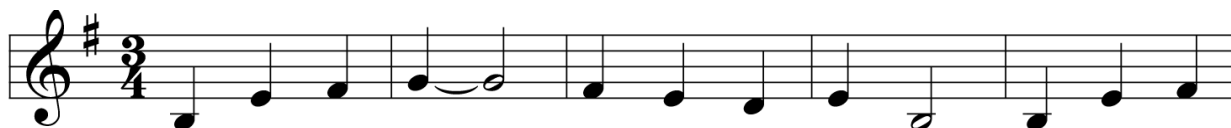
TEXT and MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon, 1993
Text and Music © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

LOVE FEAST
7.8.8.8 with refrain

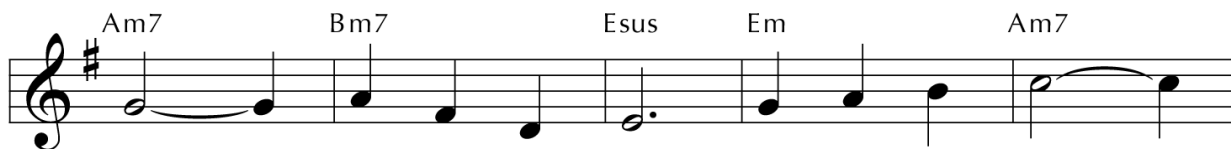
Post-Communion Prayer

* Song #314 (vv. 1 and 5)

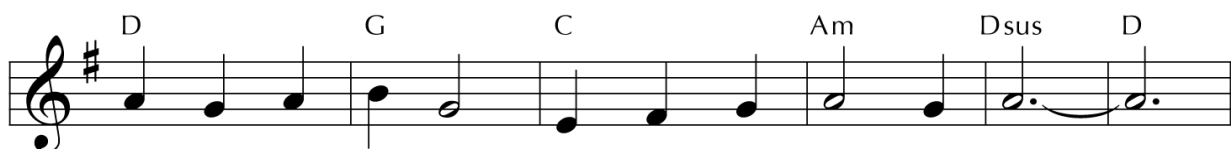
Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness



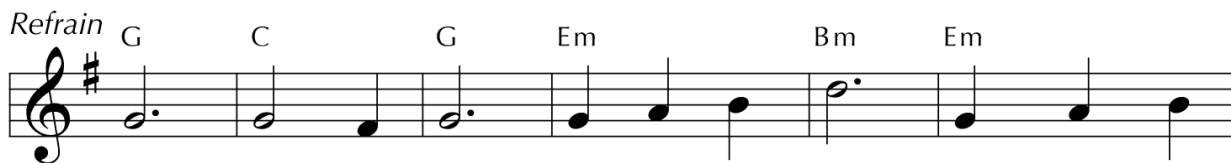
1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



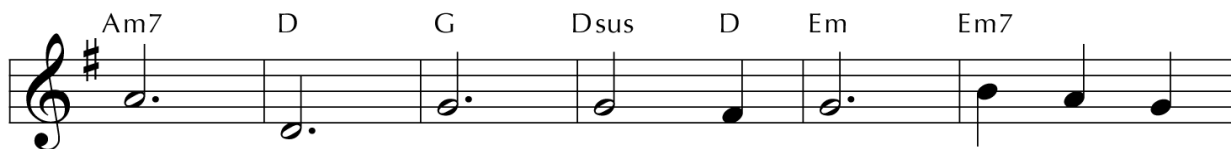
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



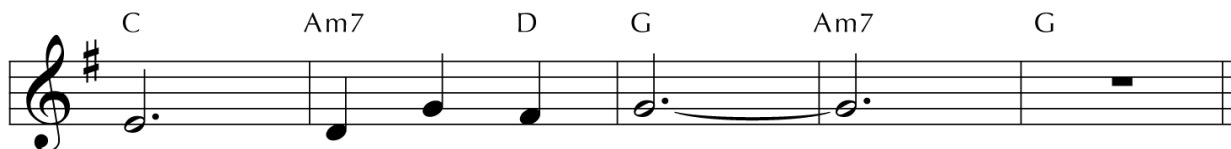
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

Our Life Together as the Body of Christ

The Peace

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

**Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you,
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.**

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Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leader

Marnie Sarver

Audio/Video

Diane Maloney

Music

Lisa Bloy, piano; Andrew Jonas, tenor;

David Schoonover, baritone

Fellowship Time Host

Marnie Sarver

Fellowship Hall Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God in celebration of grandchildren, by Marsha and Lowell Schuyler.

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. We welcome all to our livestream community and hope that you will join us in song and prayer from the safety of your own homes. If you would like to learn more about our community of faith, please [visit our church website](#).

Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”

The Rev. James Sledge, Pastor

Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

Noah Clark, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry

The Rev. Megan Klose, Parish Associate

The Rev. Rusty Lynn, Hon. Ret., Parish Associate

David Schoonover, Acting Director of Music

Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

This Week at FCPC

April 11-18, 2021

ONLINE WORSHIP AND MEETINGS

Godly Play – Sunday at 8:45 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 854 3597 5676](#)

Worship Service – Sunday at 9:30 a.m. www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream or [Facebook Live](#).

Fellowship Time – Immediately following worship. [Zoom Meeting ID: 919 9132 3252](#)

Virtual Youth Group – Sunday at 4:30 p.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 853 6871 2834](#)

Tuesday Morning Prayer – Tuesday at 8:45 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 104 294 101](#)

Saturday Morning Bible Study & Fellowship Group – Saturday at 8:00 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 972 0316 4309](#) Passcode: morning

Silent Witness, April 10. Please join the Falls Church faith community in a silent witness against racial injustice on April 10 from noon to 1:00 pm along Broad Street. Black Americans face discrimination in many facets of life. A steady drumbeat of racial inequities and indignities take a negative toll on a person's health. Physiological symptoms of this constant stress, known as battle fatigue, include tension headaches, elevated heart beats, ulcers, and elevated blood pressure to name only a few. Psychological symptoms include anxiety; worry; sleep broken by haunting, conflict-specific dreams; loss of self-confidence; frustration; hypervigilance; and emotional or social withdrawal. For more information on the effects of racial stressors see Feagin and McKinney, *The Many Costs of Racism*, 2003.

Join us for virtual Fellowship Time immediately following worship. This week's host is Marnie Sarver. Anyone is welcome to host Fellowship Time! Learn more [here](#) and sign up [here](#).

Gathering Groups begin next week! This particular series will focus on [Psalms for Praying](#) by Nan Merrill. Merrill's book is a paraphrase of Psalms in modern language. You do not have to purchase any materials for this group or prepare ahead of time. Gathering Group leaders will be equipped with everything needed for the group. As with all our previous Gathering Groups, this will be a place to meet virtually to share life and conversation. Each meeting is about 45 minutes in length. [Click here](#) to answer a few simple questions to help us prepare for this opportunity. These groups will begin the week of April 18 and run through the week of May 23. **We ask that you register no later than Tuesday, April 13.**

Congregational meeting, April 18. The Session has called a congregational meeting immediately following worship on April 18 for the purpose of electing elders and deacons. The meeting will be held on Zoom using the virtual Fellowship Time link. [Zoom Meeting ID: 919 9132 3252](#).

Drop & Dash, April 17-18. Mercy Ministry is hosting another Drop & Dash to benefit Knox Food pantry. [Click here](#) to see the current needs at Knox. **Please note: Knox has limited storage capacity and can only accept items on this list.** Wear a mask and drop off items from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the door to the lower level off the front parking lot.** Sign up to help [here](#). Thank you for your continued support of this vital ministry!

Welcome Table serves 614 guests. Many thanks to first-time head chef Katharine Stewart and all the wonderful volunteers who helped at our April 7 dinner. Our next Welcome Table is April 14. Click [here](#) to see where help is needed. If you would like to support Welcome Table with a financial contribution, you can mail a check (made out to FCPC with “Welcome Table” in memo line) to the church office or give through FCPC’s secure [Online Giving](#) link.

Crossing Paths is a daily email designed to be a way to stay connected to each other, our community, and God. Crossing Paths are simple reflections shared by the FCPC community, available by email and on our Facebook page. If you would like to share a prayer, poem, or scripture passage to be included in Crossing Paths, please email [Diane Maloney](#).

God sightings. You are invited to share a photo that captures a time or place where you have experienced God. Photos submitted by noon each Wednesday will be considered for use at the opening of our virtual worship service. Email images to [Diane Maloney](#).

Pastoral care during social distancing. If you or your loved one is in need of pastoral care, please do not hesitate to contact [James Sledge](#). And if you are at-risk from COVID-19, please let James or the [deacons](#) know if we can offer you support with specific tasks such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, or other things that might put you at risk.