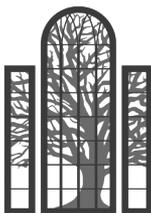




2nd Sunday in Easter
April 11, 2021



University Presbyterian Church

3240 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

(225)383-0345 • www.upcbr.org

Co-Pastors: Mamie Broadhurst and Patti Snyder

Choir Director: David Walters

Organist: Anne Maverick

Ministers: The people of this church

2nd Sunday in Easter April 11, 2021

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

We worship today gathered in Spirit if not in body, realizing perhaps more than ever the nature of the body of Christ. We gather as a resurrection people even in our time of loss and uncertainty. As we gather may we be strengthened by the Spirit who knows no boundaries.

As you prepare for worship together you may wish to light a candle representing the presence of God with you and concerns, laments, desires for healing, confessions or prayers of thanksgiving that you are particularly holding in the light of Christ today.

This morning we welcome to the 'pulpit' the Rev Robin McCullough-Bade, the Executive Director of the interfaith Federation of Baton Rouge. After serving in this role since 2011, Robin will be retiring in May. A long time friend of the congregation, UPC wishes Robin the best in her next chapter of ministry.

OPENING MUSIC

*Christ is Risen
Jan Bender
Organist's Companion. April, 1982*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS

Mamie Broadhurst

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Grace to you and peace from the One who is,
who was and who is to come.

**We gather in the name of Christ,
witnesses to his resurrection life.**

God calls us to put our trust in a reality as yet not fully seen
and in that reality to know peace.

**We come seeking the path of life and
the presence that offers fullness of joy!**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

HYMN No. 238

Thine is the Glory

CALL TO CONFESSION

Patti Snyder

**The asterisk indicates parts of the worship when you are invited
to rise in body or spirit as able.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Great God, we confess our tendency to move quickly past the proclamation of Easter, rather than tarry in its light, wait for its full significance to appear, and relish its possibilities. We give up the comfort that comes from your Word and focus on other things. We deny our doubts and thus dismiss the richness of what might blossom in their midst. We ignore the challenge the Spirit's breath ignites and likewise close ourselves off from the needs of those around us. Forgive us and restore the peace of knowing you, the joy of following you, the hope in sharing your resurrection life.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We give thanks to the risen Christ for forgiveness that washes over us like the waters of baptism cleansing us once again, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy;

for the Spirit who comes to us like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers; and for the breath of Christ's peace on the church when we hide in fear.

Clothed with mercy and forgiveness, we are one with Christ and with one another as we journey through life.

To God be the glory, now and forever. Amen.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

No. 59 (*refrain only*)

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

We, whose eyes sometimes fail to see Christ among us and whose lives often do not reflect the peace you offer, come to your Word to brush against the mystery once again that faith might be renewed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 4:32-35

John 20:19-31

Mamie Broadhurst

Robin McCullough-Bade

SERMON

Robin McCullough-Bade

WE RESPOND WITH DEDICATION

HYMN No. 231

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OF GIFTS

During this time you are encouraged to consider your response to the work of Christ in the world today, making a commitment of time, talents, and resources. Please remember your family, neighbors, the wider community, and the church in your offering. Although many things are shifting, please continue to honor previous commitments to the best of your ability.

If you choose to contribute to the work of Christ through UPC at this time, on-line giving is available via the GIVE tab on our website (www.upcbr.org) or by texting "upcbr (space) and then the number of dollars" to 73256.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*)

God of love, you call us beloved children and hold us close. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN No. 240 (*refrain*)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give praise to God's name.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Again and again we proclaim!

Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed.

CLOSING MUSIC

Be Still, My Soul

Katharina von Schlegel; Jean Sibelius

Houston Haymon, Sonja Bruzauskas, Clara Haymon, and Emelia Haymon

*Be still, my soul! for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain:
leave to your God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul! for God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know
the voice that calmed their fury long ago.*

*Be still, my soul! the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever in God's peace;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.
Be still my soul! when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*