

RESURRECTION STORIES

MAY 2, 2021 10:30 AM

GATHERING VOLUNTARY *Chanty* Percy Whitlock

WELCOME Darren Mayberry Wright
Holy God, help us to be present in worship this day even as You are present. Amen.

PRELUDE *Andante Maestoso* Holst, arr. McChesney

†GREETING

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other.

When we love each other, God remains in us and God's love is made perfect in us.

This is how we know we remain in God and God remains in us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them.

(adapted from 1 John 4:11-16)

†HYMN NO. 610

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

**We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!**

**We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!**

**A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing: Alleluia!**

†PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Like a Mighty Stream* Moses Hogan

Lift every voice and let us sing! In every song let freedom ring!
From every soul comes a noble dream let justice roll, like a mighty stream.
Oh, every trial we'll overcome, when every child beneath the sun, and every soul shall live as one.
The noble dream has just begun! Let justice roll, like a mighty stream.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 8:26-40 Liam Kohler

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Widening the Circle* Paul Purdue

RESURRECTION STORY Hannah Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Heather Harriss

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, * who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

*You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer in your native tongue and address God, who is beyond gender, with names that speak to your heart: "Our Mother", "Our Creator", "Holy Parent", or other titles that honor God's love, presence, and goodness.

OFFERING

You Are Welcome Here

Mark Burrows

Please register your attendance by clicking the link available at belmontumc.org/worship/about-worship.

You may give online at belmontumc.org, text BELMONT to 73256 to give through text messaging, contact Emily Bowland (emily@belmontumc.org) to set up a bank draft, or mail your offering to the church, Box 120098, Nashville, TN, 37212.

Am I welcome here? Am I safe to sing or laugh or shed a tear?
Will I be loved the way I am? Will friends be near? Am I welcome here?
You are welcome here. You are safe to sing or laugh or shed a tear.
We love you just the way you are, so have no fear. You are welcome here.
This is a place of peace and grace, where all God's children have a home.
God's reign will come, God will be done when all are loved and no one stands alone.
All are welcome here. All are safe to sing or laugh or shed a tear.
God loves us just the way we are, so have no fear.
All are welcome here. I am welcome here.

†DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

Members of the congregation, do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?
With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John, anointed by your Spirit, and comes into our hearts and names us beloved. God calls all who follow Jesus to share in the baptism of Christ's death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away sin and clothe us in righteousness throughout our lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, we may share in Christ's final victory.

*All praise to you, Eternal God, through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.*

As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to the church and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? **I will.**

As members of the congregation of Belmont United Methodist Church will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness? **I will.**

†**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.

As members together with you in the body of Christ

and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,

we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church

by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,

that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

†**HYMN NO. 571**

Go, Make of All Disciples

LANCASHIRE

**"Go make of all disciples." We hear the call, O Lord,
that comes from thee, our Father, in thy eternal Word.
Inspire our ways of learning through earnest, fervent prayer,
and let our daily living reveal thee ev'rywhere.**

**"Go make of all disciples," baptizing in the name
of Father, Son, and Spirit, from age to age the same.
We call each new disciple to follow thee, O Lord,
redeeming soul and body by water and the Word.**

**"Go make of all disciples." We at thy feet would stay
until each life's vocation accents thy holy way.
We cultivate the nature God plants in every heart,
revealing in our witness the master teacher's art.**

**"Go make of all disciples." We welcome thy command.
"Lo, I am with you always." We take thy guiding hand.
The task looms large before us; we follow without fear;
in heaven and earth thy power shall bring God's kingdom here.**

†**BENEDICTION**

Those who love God; must love one another

May we accept God's call to this mysterious ministry!

God calls us to a ministry of love

Beloved, let us love one another!¹

†**POSTLUDE**

Oh God, Thou Faithful God

Siegfried Karg-Elert

†You are invited to stand as you are able.

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Marion and Cecil Duke and Dorothy and Bill Richardson by Mary Jane and Phil Duke.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP LEADERS

Robbie Jones, organist

Adam Conway, music intern

Bill Cooper, accompanist

CJ Acton, Finn Bruster*, Natalia Del Pino*, Amelia Keuler*, Emily Parker*,
Hannah Parker*, Layne Parker*, Kyle Shepherd, Tyler Shepherd,
Emma Anne Stephens*, Jordan Whitehouse, Open Door Singers ensemble

Kate Henry, Dylan Jackson, Bruce Williams, assisting, Wesley Ringers*

Amelia Keuler, acolyte

Larry Beasley, Jimmy Bowland, Cindy Caldwell, Mike Graves,
David Henry, Kate Henry, Marty McClearen, Bruce Williams, media team

¹adapted from the website re:worship.org