

THE SEASON OF EASTER

FOURTH SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2021 † SANCTUARY & VIRTUAL SERVICES
GOSPEL MUSIC SUNDAY

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GATHERING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

VOLUNTARY (10:30 service)

"Ride On, King Jesus"
Horace English, bass-baritone

Johnson

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leon Hinson (8:30) | Nancy Jane Carson (10:30)

What does the Holy One require of us?

To be just, kind, and humble before God.

Give thanks to God with your whole heart.

Great are the works of the Lord.

Now faith, hope, and love abide;

and the greatest of these is love.

Let us worship God!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, You confound the world's wisdom by giving Your kingdom to the lowly and pure in heart. You astound us, as You teach with authority.

Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice and perseverance in striving for peace, that by our words and deeds the world may see the promise of Your kingdom, revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Amen.

HYMN

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

BALM IN GILEAD

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, You love us, but we have not loved You.

You call, but we have not listened.

We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns.

We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as You come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to You, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In mercy God forgives us our sin and grants us genuine repentance through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our hearts to receive.

Open our minds to understand.

And open our spirits to Your Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST READING (response: **Thanks be to God.**)

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

SECOND READING (response: **Thanks be to God.**)

Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

SERMON

"As One with Authority"

Harry Barrow

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison, from "A Declaration of Faith"*)

Jesus was God in the flesh.

Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers that enslaved and degraded people,

yet he made no use of power to protect himself.

He healed those who were sick in body and mind,

yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself.

He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him

above loyalty to family and country, yet he lived among them as a servant.

Jesus taught with authority,

challenging many time-honored customs and ideas,

yet he submitted to humiliation and death without a word on his behalf.

He forgave sinners,

yet he was counted among sinners.

*GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA PATRI

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All-powerful God, Whose revelation in Jesus Christ communicated authority and wisdom and strength among people who lived long ago, let Your Word today address the unclean spirits in our midst, that Your church may more fully represent Christ in today's world. Help us, as part of Christ's church, to reach out those who need food, inspiration, direction, care and healing.

All-loving God, Whose intention is that we live by eternal values, in loving relationship with one another, help us to rid our lives of pseudo-gods we create, habits that destroy, and prejudices that divide.

As we gather to worship You, the one true God, we remember to You those on our Prayer List this week. Be with them, and with us, freeing us from our bondage to sin, to new life, and continuing to transform our lives. All-knowing God, we also lift up to You those, near and far, who are hurting, struggling, and suffering. We remember too those in harm's way in all places of turmoil and conflict and war. We pray, O God, for peace, lasting peace, Your peace. Closer to home, we remember those who have undergone surgery, or facing surgery, or battling illness. Surround them and their families with Your healing mercies.

Enable us—in word and deed—to speak to the powers and principalities of our day with the authority of Christ. Help us to be a healing force in our world.

All our prayers this morning—both spoken and unspoken—we make in the powerful name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together:

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM (8:30 service) "Ride On, King Jesus" Johnson
Horace English, bass-baritone

ANTHEM (10:30 service) "Unclouded Day" (*lyrics on back page*) arr. Kirchner
Chancel Choir Chamber Singers

SENDING

HYMN "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" WALK WITH ME

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
walk with you along the way.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart
cause your heart to love.

May you see the face of Christ in everyone
you meet,

And may everyone you meet see the face
of Christ in you.

*CHORAL RESPONSE "An Irish Blessing" Blackmon
Chancel Choir Chamber Singers

*VOLUNTARY

*Congregation, please stand as you are able.

The ushers will collect the offering at the doors as you exit. You can also make a donation at www.scapc.org/donation.

Please exit through the doors you entered and take your bulletins to dispose of in the baskets at the doors.

Today's livestream has been prepared by Steven B. Blackmon.

ANTHEM LYRICS

"UNCLOUDED DAY"

Oh, they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
Oh, they tell me of a home far away,
Oh, they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise:
Oh, they tell me of an unclouded day.

*Refrain: Oh, the land of cloudless days,
Oh, the land of an unclouded sky,
Oh, they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise:
Oh, they tell me of an unclouded day.*

Oh, they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,
Oh, they tell me of that land far away,
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom
Sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day. *(Refrain)*

Oh, they tell me of a King in His beauty there,
And they tell me that mine eyes shall behold
Where He sits on the throne that is whiter than snow
In the city that is made of gold. *(Refrain)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL: Children and parents are invited to a Sunday School series that will meet weekly through May 23 from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. outside the Land Building. Come hear the stories of Jesus and the early church while making crafts and art projects! Masks and social distancing will be maintained. Reservations are not required but we ask that you email Michele Murphy at michele@scapc.org if you plan to participate. All children must attend with an adult (parent or chaperone). If your family would like to attend either the 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. worship service in person, you will need to make your reservation separately each week at www.scapc.org/reservations.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us for a class entitled "Painting the Stars"! Classes take place in the Land Building at 9:30 a.m. and can be attended virtually via Zoom as well. The curriculum celebrates the communion of science and faith and explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. There is a video component to the class, featuring a number of well-respected theologians. Amy Morris and Geoff Snodgrass facilitate the class. Click on the "Sunday School" button at www.scapc.org for the Zoom link.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our devoted Church Ushers, past and present, for their loyal service, by Holly and Geoff Snodgrass.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY for the 8:30 service are Mayson Buffington, Thomas Schulingkamp, and Wesley Simon. Serving for the 10:30 service are Laurie and Jeff Young, Nancy Jane and Charlie Carson, Noah Hardie, and Pierce Young.

GOT A GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY? Do you have a 2021 high school, college, or other graduate to celebrate? We'd love to know where they are graduating from and which school or other plans they have following graduation. Please send responses to Camille Zander at camille@scapc.org. CONGRATULATIONS!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY: Rising college juniors and seniors are invited to apply for the Joseph W. Reddoch Scholarship. Recipients must be members of SCAPC. To request an application, please contact Michele Murphy at michele@scapc.org. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 28 and awards will be applied to the 2021-2022 academic year. The committee will review applicants for strong commitment to and participation in SCAPC.

STAIR Turns 35! STAIR (Start the Adventure in Reading), a community ministry that was founded by and is housed here at SCAPC, will celebrate 35 years on Sunday, May 2! To mark the occasion, STAIR will hold a celebration on the Land Building lawn that day from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and all are invited!