



Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 · 10:00 am
Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome! We are glad you are here today.

**Please rise in body, mind or spirit, at places marked with an asterisk.*

PRELUDE

Monumental Brass Quintet

Woke Up This Morning

Woke up this mornin' with my mind (my mind was) stayed on Jesus...
No condemnation with my mind (my mind was) stayed on Jesus...
Walkin' and talkin' with my mind (my mind was) stayed on Jesus...

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Katie Taylor

Adapted from Psalm 118, John 20, John 4, and I John 4

One: This is the day that God has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: **We gather today to shout: Alleluia!**
Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed.

One: Out of the doom of death and despair,
Victory comes, glory appears, life abounds!

All: **We gather today to shout: Alleluia!**
Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed.

One: We shall live, witness, and recount the deeds
Of the God whose love endures forever.

All: **We gather today to shout Alleluia!**
Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed.

One: God is Spirit, Truth and Love.

All: **Let us worship and let us live in Spirit Truth and Love.**

HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

New Century Hymnal #233

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

WELCOME

Katie Taylor

*HYMN

Halle

During this hymn, all children are invited to gather on the chancel steps for the Time for Children.



Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.



Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Palm Sunday Procession

Abigail Chamblee

All are welcome to join the children in a Palm Parade around the sanctuary. Palm fronds will be available near the chancel steps. After the Time for Children, our younger participants will go to Godly Play.

HYMN: Shalom Chaverim



Sha - lom cha-ve-rim, sha - lom cha-ve-rim, sha - lom, sha - lom.



Sha - lom cha-ve-rim, sha - lom cha-ve-rim, sha - lom, sha - lom.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Katie Taylor

Please see the bulletin page 13 for a biography of our guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles. The Rev. Dr. Miles is a preacher, teacher, scholar, mentor, and artist committed to a life of ministry in the church and in the academy. She serves as the Mary Elizabeth McGehee Joyce Professor of Preaching at the Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC.

Grounded in the belief that God still anoints women and men “to bring good news to the poor... to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19), Dr. Miles endeavors to embody these practices in her life and ministry.

We are grateful to have the Rev. Dr. Miles as our guest preacher today!

*SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 10:34-43

Tesa Conlin

One: Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

All: **“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.**

One: He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

All: **All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

One: May God bless our reading, hearing, interpreting and living out of these words.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

MUSIC

I Saw Water

Leo Nestor

Vidi aquam egredientem

Cf. Ezekiel 47:1-2, 9; I Peter 2:9

from the *Sacramentary*, 1973, alt.

Leo Nestor

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

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple: alleluia (ref)

It brought God's life and God's salvation, and the people sang in joyful praise: alleluia (ref)

God called you out of darkness into the marvelous light: alleluia (ref)

The world was washed of all its sin, all life made new again: alleluia (ref)

SERMON

Embodying the Peace that Makes Us Whole

Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles

The Strife is O'er

TUNE: VICTORY

1 Cor. 15:53-57

Latin, c. 1695

Transl. Francis Pot, 1861; alt.

Refrain (before st. 1 and after st. 4)

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

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es
 4 Christ, by your wounds on Cal - va - ry from death's dread

ry of life is won; The song of tri - umph
 le - gions has dis - persed: Let shouts of ho - ly
 glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry to our
 sting your ser - vants free, That we may live e -

has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! to Refrain

A seventeenth-century Jesuit collection published in Cologne, Germany, is the earliest known source of this Latin hymn. The hymn is firmly associated with this musical setting from a Magnificat by the Italian composer Palestrina.

Tune: VICTORY 8.8.8. with alleluias
Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina, 1591
Arr. William H. Monk, 1861

WE CELEBRATE A FEAST OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Emily Frye

The Order for Communion comes from Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ and was written by Sheila Harvey Guillame.

CALL TO COMMUNION

All who find themselves in communion with God or in need of communion with God are cordially invited to take part in this simple meal. If you choose, please come forward, take a piece of bread or a gluten-free cracker and dip it into the grape juice. Individual packets of bread and juice are available, if you prefer them.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles

One: Christ is Risen!

All: **Christ is risen indeed!**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Holy One our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

One: Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit;
Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love:

We praise you for Jesus Christ,
who reminds us that even in fear-filled days,
cloaked with the powers of death,
your eternal love arises, and never leaves us.
Life is abundant!

For we rejoice with all your people
and with the angels,
because life is stronger than death!

As we proclaim the glory of your name:

All: **Holy is Jesus, God Incarnate, the Risen Christ,
whose mercy gathers us together in community,
whose grace meets us in our brokenness,
and whose loving faithfulness gives us renewed hope.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles

One: In this meal, we remember Jesus, his promises,
and the price he paid for who he was, what he said,
and what he did; for our benefit.
On the night before Jesus died,
He took a loaf of bread,
Gave thanks, broke it, and said,
“Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this, in remembrance of me.”
After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured, saying,
“This is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.”
Presider places cup on the table
In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

All: We remember Christ’s life of love, and friendship, and teaching, we
remember Christ’s dying, and rising to life again.

One: Bless this bread and this cup,
the wheat and the grape,
the farmer and the harvest,
the seed and the sower.
These simple elements are shared in community,
so that we may taste and see your goodness
and become one body in Christ.

All: For it is through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
that all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forevermore. Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

You are invited to form two lines in the center of the sanctuary for communion, rising as participants from the pew in front of you move forward. The Rev. Dr. Miles and the deacons will stand before the communion table offering the bread and the cup and may offer words of benediction (such as “the bread of life” or “the cup of salvation”).

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Easter” from Five Mystical Songs
Stanley Livengood, baritone

Ralph Vaughan Williams
Text: George Herbert

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen.
Sing his praise without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand,
that thou likewise with him may'st rise;
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more, just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part with all thy art.
The crosse taught all wood to resound his name, who bore the same.
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key
Is the best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song pleasant and long;
Or since all musick is but three parts vied and multiplied.
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

The communion music will play until all attendees who seek to partake have done so, including the choir and musicians, anyone with reduced mobility, and the deacons and guest preacher.

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

One: Let us pray:
O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life.
Fed by your love,
and strengthened by your life;
we humbly accept your call to go
into this world to live with hope,
and to share your joy.

All: You commission us to
feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
and love as we have been loved.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Feel free to pray in the words or language of your tradition.

Alternative titles for God † include: Mother, Loving Parent, Creator ...

Our God† 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.

WE GO FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE

MODERATOR MOMENT

Sarah Wilson

CALL TO OFFERING

Jeff Eagan

*HYMN

Hallelujah Chorus, from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

(please join in singing, using the music found in the pews)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world

Is become the kingdom of our Lord,

And of His Christ, and of His Christ;

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

For ever and ever, forever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,

And Lord of lords,

And He shall reign,

And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings, forever and ever,
And Lord of lords,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings! and Lord of lords!
And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings! and Lord of lords!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Charles-Marie Widor

Please join us for coffee hour in the social hall below the sanctuary after the service. The Rev. Dr. Miles will be joining us as well.

Biography of guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles

The Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles is a preacher, teacher, scholar, mentor, and artist committed to a life of ministry in the church and in the academy. She serves as the Mary Elizabeth McGehee Joyce Professor of Preaching at the Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC. Answering the call to ordained ministry in 1994, she was licensed by the First Missionary Baptist Church, making her the first woman to be licensed without contestation in a Missionary Baptist Church, in Gainesville, Florida. She was ordained in 1999 at the Greater Bethany Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Miles has taught preaching for more than 17 years and has preached extensively. She has also contributed to various academic and church related journals, commentaries, and books. Her publication, *Embodied Hope: A Homiletical Theology Reflection* (CASCADE Books), explores the human capacity to live with Hope and the power and potential of preaching to amplify Hope's resonance in our lives. Preaching, she believes, neither ignores nor concedes defeat to the despairing realities of life. Rather, preaching emboldens individuals and communities of faith to live with Hope and respond in the affirmative to God's "yes" for creation and for our lives. With these thoughts as foci, her research highlights the formative and transformative potential of preaching, including the role of preaching in redressing persistently threatening challenges that pervade U.S. culture.

As a life long learner, Dr. Miles has earned several degrees, including the Doctor of Philosophy in Religious Education and Homiletics from Emory University's Graduate Division of Religion in Atlanta, GA, and a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University with certificates in Religious Education and Black Church Studies. She also earned the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Master of Education in Counseling, and Education Specialist in Student Personnel Services, all from the University of Florida.

Grounded in the belief that God still anoints women and men "to bring good news to the poor... to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19), Dr. Miles endeavors to embody these practices in her life and ministry.



EASTER FLOWERS

Leon & Maryn Goodson, in honor of our large extended family.

Vickie Allin, in loving memory of my late husband, Lenox Cooper.

The Moore Family, in loving memory of Charlotte Anne Moore.

Linda & Bob Maddox. in memory of their parents.

Dick & Christina Staufenberger, in memory of our parents and loved ones.

Marilyn & John Hatch. in celebration of our parents.

John Timmer, in memory of Gloria Timmer.

DiGiammarino siblings & families, in loving memory of our Dad, Frank P. DiGiammarino.

Heather Hipplesley & Paul Conner, in memory of Rosemary Hipplesley and Norma Conner.

Kim & George Christo, remembering those with mental health challenges.

Kim & George Christo, in memory of loss of our beloved family & friends.

Barbara & Dunstan Hayden, with fond memories of our time at Westmoreland. Thank you!





EASTER FLOWERS

The Markham Family, in honor of all the hardworking members of Westmoreland.

The Pielemeier Family, in honor of the Westmoreland Family.

Susan Kirk, in memory of those who recently passed: Dan Meisinger, Don McKee and Wm. A. Kirk.

The Stevens Family, in loving memory of Wanda Leon (Debbie's mother), and our dear friend, Davis Van Winkle.

David & Nancy Batson, in honor of Alice Batson.

Sally & Jerry Smith, in appreciation for the beauty of creation.

Becky & Jeff Brindle, in appreciation for the gift of beautiful music provided by Alec Davis and the musicians each Sunday.

Pat & Tom Nelson, in appreciation for our Westmoreland community.



GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS: Sarah Wilson (Moderator), Pete Davis (Clerk), Mike Weber (Treasurer), Nancy Lohman, Doug Hallward-Driemeier, Elizabeth Benton, Katya Kazmin, John Timmer, Jan Stohlman, Greg Perla and Jim Schear.

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Mikayla Mindiola, Alto
Doug Gaddis, Tenor
Stan Livengood, Bass

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The Westmoreland Sanctuary has a hearing loop that provides a wireless signal for hearing aids when set to 'T' (Telecoil).

