

Order of Worship – Zoom Service

WE GATHER FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

Gathering Music

We Gather Together

Kremser

Welcome Message

Call to Worship

Again and again,
We come to this space.
Again and again,
We gather as a community.
Again and again,
We move closer to God.
And again and again,
God is here.
We are met.
We are heard.
We are shown the way.
So again and again,
Let us worship holy God.

Hymn of Praise

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Verses one and three

UMH #127

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

We would make room for you, dear Lord: room in our minds and hearts; room also in our life together. Let your word be born in us anew so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, your splendor shines in us and through us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

NRSV

John 2:13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.



Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**



Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who knows holy rage—
A God who stands with the underdog,
Who passionately protects the suffering,
And who overturns systems of corruption.**

**We believe in a God who leads by example—
Feeding the hungry,
Welcoming the children,
Offering water to the Samaritan,
Eating with the tax collector,
Healing the sick,
Preaching from the mountaintop,
And offering second chances.**

**We believe in a God who knew that we would lose our way,
And still said, “This is my body broken for you.”
We believe in a God who knew our capacity for mistakes,
And still said, “I’m going to prepare a place for you.”**

**And because of this love,
We believe that God shows us the way,
Again and again and again.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**



Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
We have broken your law,
We have rebelled against your love,
We have not loved our neighbors,
And we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and and a good and joyful And join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit.... Now and forever.

Amen.

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.**



Invitation to Giving

Special Music

Beneath the Cross of Jesus
Aldersgate Choir

Hymn

In an Age of Twisted Values

Leckebusch, Fedak

Opportunities for Connection and Service

Benediction

**To share your offering, you may use this link: <https://www.uumcp.org/electronic-giving> Another option is to mail your offering to the church office: 3621 Campus Drive | College Park, MD 20740*

Liturgy: Adapted from *Liturgy* by Rev. Sarah Are | *A Sanctified Art LLC* | sanctifiedart.org. Flowers provided by David and Frances Notley. Flowers arranged by Marie Venero.

SIGN OF HOPE

Exciting news for UUMC! We have been accepted into Oikos Accelerator. This one year program “empowers congregations around the US to align money and mission by creatively using their buildings and property to further their mission and build financial resilience”. By the end of this program, each church “will effectively design and launch a social enterprise that utilizes their church property in some form.”

Our desire is to connect to our community in a purposeful way, by offering the use of our kitchen to local businesses. If you would like to get involved in this exciting and meaningful ministry, please contact the church office, or Pastor Michelle.



Oikos is the Greek term for household — and it is also the etymological root of economics and ecology.

Artists' Statements

again & again, we are shown the way

Overturn

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by John 2:13-22 | *Digital Painting with collage*



In 1965, my grandfather moved his family of six to Birmingham, AL, to become the new senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church. Situated downtown, First Pres sits only a few blocks away from 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of the 1963 bombing attack by white supremacists who killed four young girls. Earlier that same year, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed eight prominent white clergy in his now famous “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” My grandfather’s predecessor was one of those clergy. They prompted King’s famous letter by requesting he appeal to law and order. In essence they said to him: *“We agree with your movement, but your methods are too harsh. The demonstrations are destructive and causing too much*

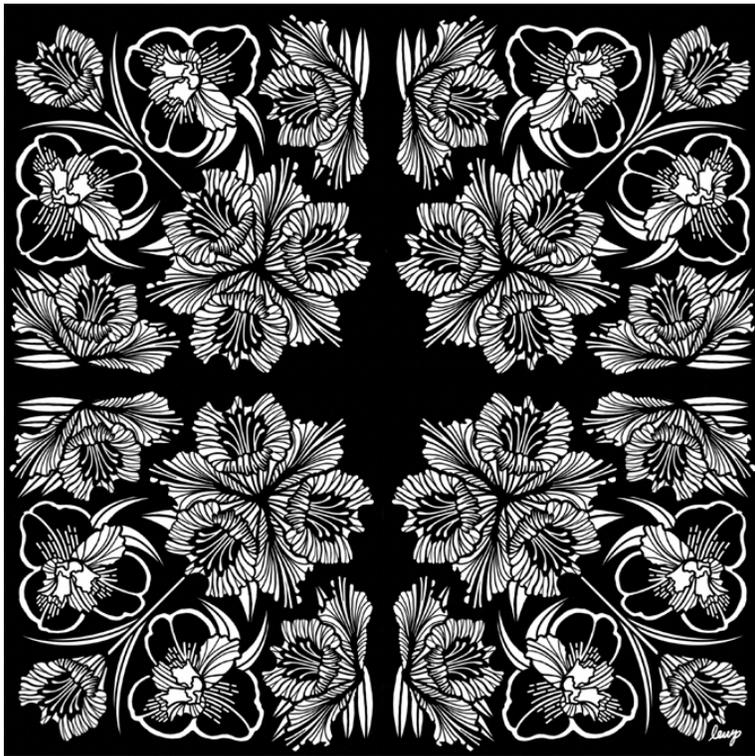
backlash. You’re bringing agitators into our city. Wait for a better time and negotiate gently.”

This is the context in which my grandfather began his ministry with First Pres. While he helped the church change their policy to become open to worshipers of all races (a process that undoubtedly required much moral fortitude), I wonder how often he, too, felt the urge of his predecessor and the other white clergy who had written to Dr. King. I wonder how often he preferred for justice to happen slowly, gently, and in an orderly manner. I think often about how that urge lives in me too.

In this image, I wanted to freeze-frame the destruction Jesus ignites, forcing us as viewers to focus on the process of dismantling and destroying an oppressive system. For those who willingly or unwillingly benefit from systems of oppression, it may feel threatening and terrifying to see them all come tumbling down. But for those held within the unrelenting grip of injustice, it must be completely and utterly liberating.

Again and again, Jesus shows us that his movement is about overturning systems of oppression to bring forth God’s beloved community on earth. Again and again, liberation movements throughout history pursue this same goal. Will we join Jesus in the overturning, or like the disciples, question his methods?

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity



again & again, we are shown the way

The Cross Remains

as a marker of my identity with Christ.

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

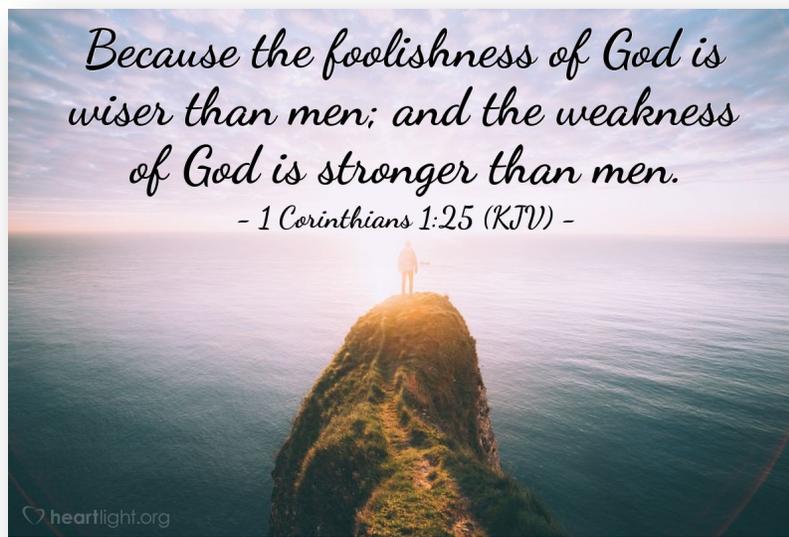
Inspired by 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 | *Digital drawing*

Confession: I have a problem with the image of the cross. Early Christians expressed their identity subversively with a fish or an anchor, but once Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, the cross emerged as the predominant Christian symbol. My struggle with the cross is connected to my rejection of state-sanctioned violence. It is after all an empirical torture device. In my desire to reject the empire's visual identification of the movement of Jesus, a symbol that has also been co-opted for questionable purposes in American culture, I have denied the cross

As I have spent more time in reflection, however, I think this rejection could be an indication of my privilege. It is convenient for me to identify with more comfortable, rosy images of Christianity while turning away from the anguish Christ suffered at the hands of earthly power. It's easier for me to protest the cross than it is to try and more fully understand the ugliness of the oppression he endured. For those who know injustice intimately, the cross can be an image of profound identification with Jesus, the one who endured unspeakable agony and rose again.

On the wall next to my front door hangs a resurrection cross created by a Mexican artisan. I love it so much because you almost can't see the cross for the flowers. It serves as a reminder to me that death does not have the final word. I drew this image as I attempted to obscure the cross with blooming irises, a flower that represents wisdom and strength. Ultimately, in the negative space, the cross remains.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman



Announcements for March 7, 2021

EASTER FLOWERS Would you like to help enhance our Easter service? Lilies, hyacinths, mums, and tulips may be purchased through the church office for use in our worship. The orders need to be placed with the office by March 22. You may send a check along with the order form on the next page OR you may sign up and pay by credit card online: <https://uumcp.breezechms.com/form/460a31>

HALLELUJAH CHORUS Each year on Easter Sunday, our Aldersgate Choir ends the service with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Several members of the congregation join in singing this wonderful piece. This year, the Hallelujah Chorus will be pre-recorded for our use on Easter. If you would like to be part of this special piece, please email Millicent Scarlett, our music ministry director: divscarlett@hotmail.com

COFFEE HOUR Please stay on Zoom after our worship service today for a time of fellowship.

WEDNESDAY PRAYERS Join Pastor Michelle and members of your church family in a time of sharing prayers on Wednesdays at noon, via a Zoom call. You will receive log in information that morning.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Spring is around the corner! Next weekend (March 13-14) begins Daylight Savings Time. Turn your clocks ahead. Remember March forward!

University United Methodist Church

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[Facebook.com/uumcp](https://www.facebook.com/uumcp)

Twitter: @UUMCCollegePark

Instagram: [uumc_collegeparkUUMC](https://www.instagram.com/uumc_collegeparkUUMC)

Prayer Requests: prayers@uumcp.org

Michelle Mejia, Pastor: revmichelle@uumcp.org



Easter Flower Order Form 2021

Please send this completed form, along with your check, to the church office, to be received by March 22. You may pick up your flowers on Easter Sunday after the service.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

This year we do not have a choice of colors.

Lily – 1 stem with 4-6 blossoms \$12 How many?____ Total \$ ____

Lily – 2 stems \$20 How many?____ Total \$ ____

Hyacinth \$11 How many?____ Total \$ ____

Mum \$11 How many?____ Total \$ ____

Tulip \$11 How many?____ Total \$ ____

My flowers are given in honor of _____

My flowers are given in memory of _____

ORDER TOTAL: \$_____

