

**April 11, 2021**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**Morning Worship, 10 AM**

Watchword for the Week: *If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.* 1 John 1:7

Welcome and announcements

Rev. Andrew Heil

Prelude - *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* and *The Church's One Foundation*

arr. Mitchell Eithun (2020)

Gregor BellChor

Call to worship

Liturgy: *Celebration*, pages 43-47

{Standing}

In the beginning was God — creating, giving birth to the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and in darkness. But God spoke into the emptiness, and light appeared: the dawn of our beginnings. God kept creating — flowers, trees, seeds, and fruit: things that blossom and things that grow. God created more — life that crawled and life that swam, life that sprang on hooves, and life that soared on wings!

**The sun, the moon, the stars burst forth as light; the skies and the earth were filled with life — plants, creatures, and birds of every kind. And God rejoiced saying: It is good!**

From the midst of this earth came yet another creature, created in God's image. There in the bounty of the garden God crafted humanity — male and female. God breathed into them life-giving breath. God looked upon these creatures with love and said: It is good! Then God rested, seeing and loving what had been done, setting free this creation with all its potential for good and evil.

**Gracious God, thank you for the goodness of creation — for the variety, the beauty, and the delicate complexity of life, your creation! Forgive us for the times we have not appreciated or cared for all you have given to us. Open our eyes; restore our hearts; and bring us back into relationship with you, the earth, and all of life.**

(Sitting)

The diversity of life is nowhere more profound than among human beings. We are many colors, shapes, and ages. Language, music, culture, and custom vary among us. We are a great tapestry woven from God's love.

Artful Weaver, you ask that we share your love with others, just as Jesus reached out and loved those most different from himself. Too often we fall short of this call, seeing differences as cause for fear rather than for celebration. Instead of caring for the tapestry, we unravel the fabric of your design. We perpetuate divisions by race and color, culture, class, and gender.

**We give you thanks and praise that Jesus reveals your boundless love. Teach us this love, that the world may be one. Through your healing love, help us to break down the boundaries dividing the human family.**

ST. PETER [14 T]

Join hands dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.

All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.

The image shows a musical score for two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music is for the lyrics 'Join hands dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.' The second system is for the lyrics 'All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.'

TEXT: © by American Tract Society

Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, gave hope to the hopeless. Jesus challenges his followers to continue his ministry, asking us to feed, clothe, and give shelter, saying: As you do these things for the least of these, you do them for me.

**We pray that we will hear the cries of need, and that we will not only hear, but join with others who respond in loving action.**

HOW GREAT THOU ART

O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y

thun-der, thy power through-out the un-i-verse dis-played.

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou

art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God to

thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "We are the hands and feet of Christ, serv - ing by grace each oth - er's need. We dare to risk and sac - ri - fice with truth - ful word and faith - ful deed." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

TEXT AND TUNE: © by Jim Strathdee

We remember the birthing of the church: when the people who had gathered for prayer and praise were filled with the Holy Spirit.

We remember how the Spirit came upon them like fire, like wind — surrounding them, exciting them, opening their eyes and hearts to the power and presence of God. The Spirit-filled church could not stop — singing praises to God, reaching out to each other's need, spreading the word of God's power and God's love. We remember this beginning and pray that the church will be infused with new life through the Spirit — calling us, claiming us, summoning us to the excitement and joy of faith.

**Come, Holy Spirit, ignite our hearts and impart your gifts again to the church.  
Blow through us and within us like a renewing, powerful wind.**

[Standing]

CASCADE

*Unison*

O Breath of Life, come sweep - ing through us, re - vive your  
O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us, till hum - bly  
O Breath of Love, come, breathe with - in us, re - new - ing

church with life and power. O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, re -  
we con - fess our need. Then in your ten - der - ness re -  
thought and will and heart. Come, love of Christ, a - fresh to

new us, and fit your church to meet this hour.  
make us; re - vive, re - store, for this we plead.  
win us; re - vive your church in ev - 'ry part.

As God created the heavens, the earth, and life itself, may God give birth to new life in us. May God's love be known to us today through Jesus Christ. And as tiny pebbles thrown into a pond cause ripples to move outward in ever-widening circles, may our love move from this place outward — expanding to embrace our neighbors, our community, our human family, and our world.

**May all that we do and say and live be a witness, be a prayer, and be a celebration!**

Scripture lessons:

Psalm 133

**How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!**

It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.

**For there the LORD ordained his blessing,  
life forevermore.**

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20: 19-31

Hymn 680 - *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

T. Dennis

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love; the fel - low - ship of  
ar - dent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our  
bur - dens bear; and of - ten for each  
shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

TEXT: John Fawcett (1782)  
TUNE: Hans G. Niegeli (1768-1836). Arr Lowell Mason (1845)

S.M.  
DENNIS

Scripture lesson: Acts 4: 32-35

Rev. Ginny Hege Tobiassen

Sermon

1 High - ly fa - vored con - gre - ga - tion, loved by  
 2 Ground - ed on your Sav - ior's mer - it, blessed in  
 3 Wit - ness here to all a - round you of your  
 4 Ev - i - dence by word and ac - tion that your

Je - sus and es - teemed, ne'er for - get your des - ti -  
 his com - mun - ion sweet, des - tined heav - en to in -  
 Sav - ior's dy - ing love; tell them how he sought and  
 faith is not in vain, that your high - est sat - is -

na - tion, why from this vain world re - deemed.  
 her - it, and the church a - bove to meet.  
 found you, gave you grace from heav'n a - bove.  
 fac - tion cen - ters in the Lamb once slain.

5 By love's closest bonds united,  
 as the Lord's own family,  
 be to serve his name excited,  
 be to him a fruitful tree.

TEXT: Samuel T. Benade (1789), alt.  
 TUNE: Herrnhut (c. 1735); John Thommen (1745); C. Gregor Choralbuch (1784)

8.7.8.7. Trochaic  
 BATTY (16 A)

Reflection on giving

*The offertory provides an opportunity to reflect on the many ways that we can express our gratitude in response to God: with time, treasure, talents, and Testimony.*

*For financial giving online:*

*Click the "Give Now" button on any page of the Home Church website. For more information, go to [HomeMoravian.org/online-giving](http://HomeMoravian.org/online-giving). You can make one-time or recurring gifts.*

*Use the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/>*

*Text HOME to 73256 on your phone.*

Anthem: *Open Your Heart*  
 Doxology  
 Offertory prayer

Jane Marshall (2002)

Hymn 356 - *Christians, Dismiss Your Fear*T. *Diademata*

1 Chris-tians, dis-miss your fear, let hope and joy suc-ceed;  
 2 The Lord is ris'n a-gain, who on the cross did bleed;  
 3 He has him-self the keys of death, the grave, and hell;

the joy-ful news with glad-ness hear: "The Lord is ris'n in - deed!"  
 he lives to die no more, a - men, the Lord is ris'n in - deed!  
 his is the vic - to - ry and praise, and he rules all things well;

The prom-ise is ful - filled in Christ our on - ly Head;  
 He tru - ly tast - ed death to give us hope a - gain,  
 death now no more I dread, but cheer - ful close my eyes;

now jus-tice, mer - cy, rec-on - ciled, he lives who once was dead.  
 in bit - ter pangs re-signed his breath, but now has ris'n. A - men!  
 death is a sleep, the grave a bed; with Je - sus I shall rise.

TEXT: St. 1 Joseph Hart (1762); st. 2,3 John Cennick (1754), alt.  
 TUNE: George Job Elvey (1868)

S.M.D.  
 DIADEMATA (595 C)

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude - *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright*

T. *Erchienen ist der herrlich Tag*  
 setting by Michael Beyer, 1982

**The flowers** are placed in the Sanctuary today in honor of *Doris and Don Stovall* who will celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 14, and in memory of *the Reverend and Mrs. Alan Hauser Barnes* by the family.

*Congratulations and best wishes to Anthony Butts and Maureen Andrews, who were married on March 27 in Baton Rouge (4046 Greenwell St, Baton Rouge, LA 70805).*

*Ill at Novant Medical Center:* Joseph Dempster

*Recovering at Home:* Cathryn Morse, Don Swan, Brenda Talbert

*We embrace in sympathy Ada Vernon on the loss of her brother, Earl Wilkes, who died last week.*

**Learning opportunities are available following worship this morning.**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, 11:15A:**

**Bible Discussion:** *Beginning a study of 1, 2, and 3 John*

**Faith Journeys:** *Living in Community with Christine Pohl: Truthfulness*

**Scripture Encore:** *“Peace Be with You,” continuing the exploration of worship lectionary scriptures*

To join by video,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7460335693?pwd=NOs4Yk5yQktwbW9HM2xNUk5KYi9SQOT09>.

To join by phone, call 1 (929) 205-6099 (Meeting ID: 7460335693; Passcode: 34568983).

**TWEENS:**

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.: *Memory and Surprises*, Bread Baking

**Sunday School breakout session** with Home, Kernersville, and Raleigh Moravian churches

**YOUTH:**

Youth Fellowship gathering begins at 2:00 pm; please contact Margaret Norris

([mnorris@homemoravian.org](mailto:mnorris@homemoravian.org)) for zoom link and other information

## **Coming Back, Carefully**

On Tuesday, April 6, the Home Church Board of Elders voted in favor of a gradual return to in-person worship in our building, beginning with our 10 AM worship on Sunday, May 2.

As we announce this decision with joy, we also pray for the congregation's patience and understanding in this careful beginning.

Our best efforts to keep everyone safe and comfortable begin with the excellent work of our Safety Ministry Team. As we begin to regather, we will follow their recommended protocols. This means that many things about worship will look, sound, and feel different as we work to protect everyone's health from COVID-19.

### **What will look the same?**

*Our beautiful sanctuary, and your beautiful faces!*

*Also, livestreaming will continue on all platforms: Facebook, YouTube, and [homemoravian.org](http://homemoravian.org).*

### **What will look different?**

*Here is what you can expect as we begin regathering:*

### **1. Numbers will be limited, especially in the first few weeks.**

After an extensive review of our sanctuary seating, the Safety Ministry Team has created a seating plan that allows for the CDC-recommended distance of 6 feet\* between worshippers and also includes safe traffic patterns. (For instance, if someone needs to leave their seat to use the restroom, it's important that they not have to squeeze by neighbors in the pew.) This plan will determine seating in the sanctuary in the initial stages of our regathering, as a way of starting slowly and carefully. **This plan allows for 32 worshippers to be present in the sanctuary.** (Worship team members and ushers are not counted in the 32.)

While we recognize that North Carolina's current recommendation for indoor gatherings would allow up to 50, the seating in our sanctuary cannot accommodate 50 persons while maintaining distance and traffic flow. As vaccinations increase and infection rates (we pray) decline, we do hope to raise our seating limit as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, we crave your patience as we learn the best ways to be together while staying safe.

### **2. Reservations will be required.**

With seating limited, reservations will be necessary. Using the reservations submitted, our ushers will develop a seating plan for each Sunday, putting members of households together and allowing proper distance between others.

We will create the opportunity to sign up online or by calling the church office. We're still working out the technical details and will publicize the sign-up procedures as soon as we have them in place.

*\*The recent change to CDC recommendations, from 6 feet to 3 feet, applies only to children and teenagers in classroom settings.*

**3. Masks will be worn by everyone, at all times** (except that pastors will remove theirs while speaking at the microphone).

**4. For the time being, congregational singing is "on hold."** The thought of being in church but *not singing* is a hard deprivation for our congregation, and we are paying close attention to new recommendations as they develop; but for the present, out of an abundance of caution, only the worship team will sing (masked, of course).

Other parts of the protocol are the familiar hallmarks of this COVID era: things like temperature checks and screening questions, one-way traffic, and an abundance of hand sanitizer. In the coming weeks we'll release a complete list of the protocols so that everyone will have a better idea of even the smallest details.

Finally:

## **Some things will probably look different from week to week.**

We'll try very hard to develop consistent practices for our gatherings. For at least the first few Sundays, however, we may find ourselves adapting week to week as guidelines change or we figure out better ways to do things. We appreciate everyone's patience and flexibility as we learn to be together in new ways.

And, speaking of different, the elders are talking about adding some different worship opportunities that will allow for larger gatherings outdoors. We're excited about that possibility! If you are interested in helping to create some outdoor worship opportunities, please contact a member of the Board of Elders so that we can invite you into the conversation.

We have called this return "careful." We encourage all members to think of our gradual return as *care-full*: Each decision we make, and each step we take, is *full of care* for one another. Some of the things we are asking are hard things: It's hard to think of limiting the seats in God's house, making reservations, sitting quietly instead of singing joyfully. But because we care for one another, we can do hard things for one another and for the good of the whole congregation.

With joyfulness and longing,

Rev. Ginny Tobiassen, *for the Board of Elders and the Safety Ministry Team*

### **Senior Friends**

Senior Friends will meet on Zoom, Thursday, April 15th at 1 pm. Our program this month will be given by the Rev. Dr. Daniel Crews who oversaw preparation for publication of many volumes of the records of Moravian work among the Cherokee nation.

Daniel has titled his presentation as: "Cherokees and Moravians: A Long Journey and Relationships Restored." And he says about his talk: "This will give what led up to the Trail of Tears, the event itself, and our friendship with the Cherokees up to the present."

Please join us on Zoom with the same link as is used for Evening Prayers, as printed at the very beginning of "The Latest News for You" emailed from Home Moravian Church.

### **World Mission News**

In spite of the Pandemic our team has continued to focus on areas of support in our mission areas of Ray of Hope, Kenya, where Sr. Sarah Mandiba is continuing education for her teaching certificate, and in Sierra Leone, where Sr. Safie Mohammed continues to lead after the death of her husband. We remained concerned for our sisters and brothers in Honduras and Nicaragua who are continuing to rebuild from the devastating hurricanes of last year. Our Board of World Mission staff has been unable to go to targeted areas of responsibilities but continues to monitor areas through local people. You may go to the Board of World Mission website for current information: <https://www.moravian.org/mission/>

The World Mission Team has scheduled three events to raise funds to support mission efforts.

**MAY 1: SHREDDING EVENT:** This event will be in the Elberson Fine Arts Parking Lot of Salem College behind the Archives and the Moravian Music Foundation. Time is 10:00 AM till noon. Suggestion is \$5.00 per bag or box. In addition to documents, computer hard drives can be shredded.

OCTOBER 24 , SUNDAY OF CHURCH COUNCIL: a Soup and Chili Luncheon with quarts available for \$10.00. This will be in Fellowship Hall.

NOVEMBER (Date to be determined) CHRISTMAS DECORATION SALE of “gently used items”. More information later.

PROCEEDS FROM EACH EVENT WILL SUPPORT WORLD MISSION EFFORTS. We thank you for your support. For information, contact Mallie Graham, 336.924.9409.

### **This Week's Calendar**

#### **Sunday, April 11, 2021**

9:00 am – Children's SS/Godly Play  
9:30 am – Virtual Sanctuary Fellowship  
10:00 am – Worship  
11:15 am – Adult Sunday School  
            Tweens  
2:00 pm – Youth Fellowship

#### **Monday, April 12**

5:15 pm – CE meeting  
7:00 pm – Trustees meeting

#### **Tuesday, April 13**

8:00 am – Prayers for the morning

#### **Wednesday, April 14**

6:30 pm – WNF gathering  
6:45m – WNF program

#### **Thursday, April 15**

9:00 am - Consortium Educators' meeting  
1:00 pm – Sr. Friends  
5:00 pm – *HTH* deadline  
8:00 pm – Prayers for the evening

#### **Sunday, April 18**

9:00 am – Children's SS/Godly Play  
9:30 am – Virtual Sanctuary Fellowship  
10:00 am – Worship  
11:15 am – Adult Sunday School  
            Tweens  
2:00 pm – Youth Fellowship