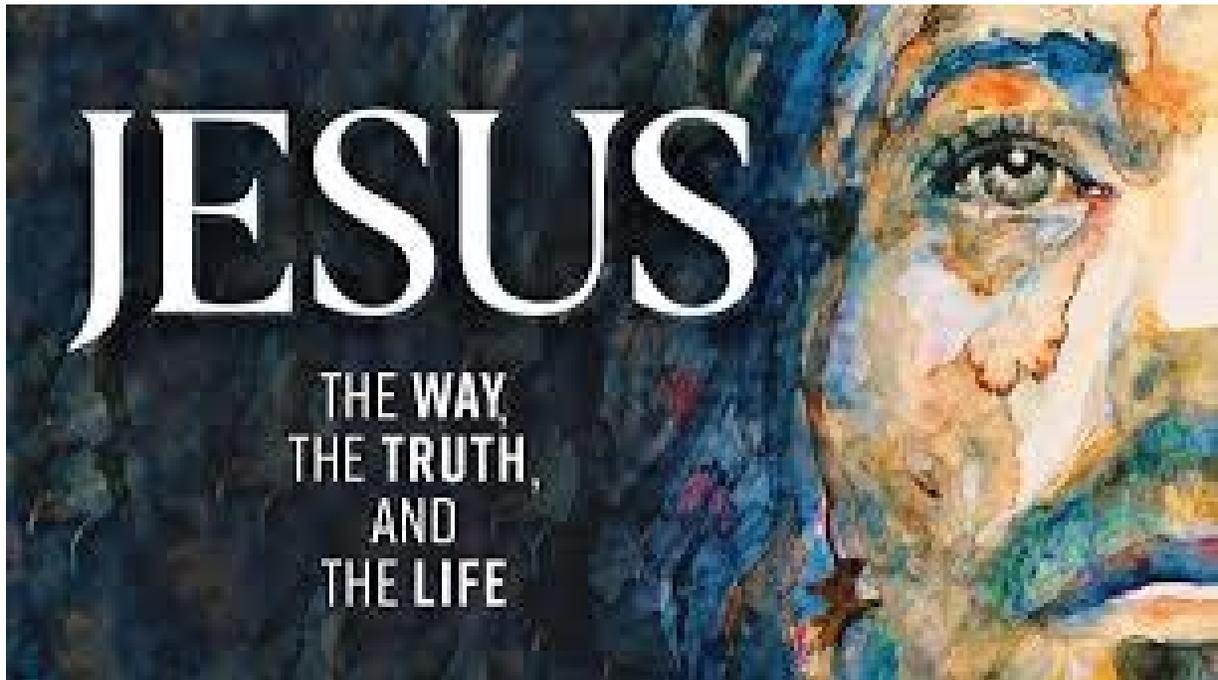


The Season of Easter



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8840 University City Blvd., Charlotte, North Carolina 28213
Phone: 704-549-1555 Website: www.adventlu.org

“Love God, Serve Neighbor”

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

“God So Loved the World”

Annette Nolan

Call to Worship

L: At times it can be difficult
to look forward in hope,
to face the future,
to trust that God is working for us,

That God is working in us,
But if only for just this moment,
cling to the promise that God is with us:
Offering us a glimpse of heaven.

A vision of what is to come.
So, however difficult,
however challenging,
however uncomfortable,
if just for this moment,
put your trust in God
and let your hearts be at rest. Amen.

Confession & Forgiveness

L: When we seek God’s mercy, we draw close the mystery of faith: love that cannot be undone by our sin. Trusting that God is grace, let us offer to God the truth of our lives, first in silent prayer.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

**Holy Lord, God of life, hear our prayer:
Forgive us when we follow those paths that do not lead to life,
That instead lead us to violence, or hate, or fear,
Paths that lead to dread and death.
Forgive us when we forget that you offer us life,
Life that is abundant and eternal,
Life that began at the creation of all things.
Forgive us, turn us to the right path,
and let your love and grace flow over us and the world.
We pray in Jesus’ name and for his sake. Amen.**

L: Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!
Alleluia! Amen.

Easter Greeting

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen . . . Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

L: God of life, the privilege is ours to share
in the loving,
healing,
reconciling
mission of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, wherever we are.
Since without you, we can do no good thing:
may your Spirit make us wise;
may your Spirit guide us;
may your Spirit renew us;
may your Spirit strengthen us;
So that we will be:
strong in faith,
discerning in proclamation,
courageous in witness,
persistent in good deeds.
To the glory of your name
Amen.

The First Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel Acclamation

“Word of God Speak”

John Tirro

The Holy Gospel

John 14:1-6

The Message

Lead me, guide me along the way,
For if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

I am weak and I need Thy strength and power,
To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see.
Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

Lead me, guide me along the way,
For if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord just always let me thy servant be,
Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

Lead me, guide me along the way,
For if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: God of life, we give you thanks for all your gifts to us—
for daily food, for health, for each breath we take,
for freedom to choose,
and for the gifts of your word, your power and your love.
Our hearts are truly overwhelmed,
when we consider how you have entrusted so much to us.
May we be worthy of that trust—
may we be a people who are unafraid to live
as fully and as richly as you want us to live.

For all this, and more,

Hear our prayer.

L: God of life, we come together this day celebrating the role that mothers and all who been mothers to us have played in our lives. We thank you for their constant love and faithful guidance, as well as the beloved memories we continue to hold. Keep us mindful of those for whom this is a difficult day. Help us to reach out to them with the love and grace we have received from you.

For all these blessings, and more,

Hear our prayer.

L: God of life, we pray for the church gathered today,
both here and around the world,
that we might be a people
who live as reflection of the vastness of your love.
May our doors always be open in welcome,
may our love be shared with all people,
and may our worship be inclusive.

For all this, and more,

Hear our prayer.

L: God of life, we know that you are concerned with every aspect of our lives, and so we ask that you would guide those who are lost and those who filled with worry and fear. Protect those who are in harm's way, heal those who are ill, and mend those who are broken, as only your love can.

We especially pray for:

- Bill Aldred
- Lemont Bell
- Thomas Clement
- Daryl Creswell
- Freda Christ
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jennifer Gazda
- Dwight Hartsell
- Carole Johnson
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Phyllis Lester
- Ray Matthews
- Rick Messina
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Anita Ortiz
- Richard Schulz
- Myra Steele
- Wylee Stephens
- Mary Faith Strickland
- Laura Tucker
- Harold Twitty
- Connie Van Brunt
- Herbert Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Gerry Wisner

We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially . . .

Bill Kirkpatrick, friend of Gene & Brenda Reid
Angelina Messina, mother of Rick Messina
Kenny Jowers, father of Diane Jowers
Peter Farmer, friend of Brenda & Gene Reid
Angel Duggins, sister of Jasmine Stimac

By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Now, we now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (give time for community to pray).

For all these people, and the concerns known only by you,
Hear our prayer.

L: God of life, we prayer for healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. Bring peace in the midst of anxiety and renewed sense of unity in places of protest and discord. Inspire all with a spirit of camaraderie as the entire world works to meet the health needs and safety of all communities and peoples.

For all these people, and all our hopes and concerns,
Hear our prayer.

L: God of life, we offer to you these prayers, those spoken and those still unknown to us. Give us peace as we trust you with the timing and the answers you provide. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (Sung by Rob Beyersdorf)

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Benediction

L: As we live out our lives
in the world around us,
let us trust that we go with
the blessing of God,
the Father, and the + Son and the Holy Spirit,
guiding, loving and inspiring us. Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

"My Redeemer Lives"

Annette Nolan