SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2024

Mission: To be a church where faith is fostered, community is cherished, and Christ's love thrives.

Prelude

From the Rising of the Sun

Stella Davis, Daughter of Ret. Brigadier General Ray Davis, ARMY

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Liturgist, Lieutenant Colonel Stoney Portis, ARMY

Liturgist: The road we have traveled to get here today is different for each one of us,

People: But we meet together in this place to praise God

Leader: Let us gather together in God's presence People: Let us open to God's transforming love.

Leader: May we become true disciples and follow Jesus

People: May we share and live His love with one another.

HYMN*

My God, I Love Thee

UMH 470

- 1. My God, I love thee, not because I hope for heaven thereby, nor yet because, if I love not, I must forever die.
- 2. Thou, O my Jesus, thou didst me upon the cross embrace; for me didst bear the nails and spear and manifold disgrace.
- 4. Not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward, but as thyself hast loved me, O everlasting Lord.
- 5. So would I love thee, dearest Lord, and in thy praise will sing; because thou art my loving God and my eternal King.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST*

COMMUNAL OPENING PRAYER

Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory, through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, whenever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:7-12

Rev. Jan Phillips

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

HONORING OUR SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

CONGREGATIONAL AND LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord in your mercy.

P: Hear our 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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Emily Chua, Wife of Lt. Col Michael Chua, US Air Force

ANTHEM

Power of Your Love

Soloists, Annie Cebrzynski (Niece of Ret. Captain Jim Cavoli, ARMY) & Amanda Smith (Daughter of Ret, Master Sergeant Richard Smith, USMC)

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

SERMON

Hard Questions: Did Jesus Have to Die for Us?

Rev. Steve Jones

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

HYMN*

Iesus Paid It All

UMH 281

1. I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small, Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."

Refrain: Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

- 2 Lord, now indeed I find Thy pow'r and Thine alone, Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone. **Refrain.**
- 3 For nothing good have I, Where-by Thy grace to claim; I'll wash my garments white, In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb. **Refrain.**
- 4 And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete, "Jesus died my soul to save," My lips shall still repeat. **Refrain.**

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

