

April 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, how do we respond to God for all the blessings we have been given? What can we give God in return?

We will offer God a sacrifice of thanksgiving in the presence of God's people.

Come, let us worship God together!

GATHERING MUSIC

HYMN 339

Lift Every Voice and Sing

GATHERING PRAYER

written by Rev. Christopher Ney

We give you thanks for all the ways that you bless our lives: the beauty and abundance of nature, the love of family and friends, the joy of knowing you and hearing your word. Send Your Spirit during this time of worship so that we might dream your dreams and see visions of the world as you created it to be. Guide our thoughts and actions. Bring us closer to you so that we might do your will and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

OPENING MUSIC

SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from the Book of Common Worship

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.
(Silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

RESPONSE

HYMN 418 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

**O for the wonderful love he has promised,
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned,
He has mercy and pardon.
Pardon for you and for me.
"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

***HYMN 329**

God is Our Refuge and Our Strength

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 116: 1 – 4, 12 – 19

SERMON

"Thoughts & Prayers"
Rev. Scott Lawson

ANTHEM

Be Still, Mary McDonald
Starmount Chancel Choir

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Gifts may also be made online at starmountpres.org.

EARTH CARE LITANY

From PCUSA Book of Order W-5.0305

God sends the Church to share in the stewardship of creation, preserving the goodness and glory of the earth God has made.

God cares for us through the gifts of creation, providing all that we need in abundance.

As caretakers of God's creation, we are called to: tend the land, water, and air with awe and wonder at God's gifts;

To use the earth's resources wisely, without plundering, polluting, or destroying; and to seek beauty, order, health, harmony, and peace for all God's creatures.

In the Service for the Lord's Day we express our care for creation by: giving thanks for God's creative power and sustaining care, and confessing the ways we fail to care for creation.

We rejoice in the promise of redemption and renewal in Jesus Christ.

We offer our lives and resources in service to the Creator of all;

We commit ourselves to live as good stewards of creation until the day when God will make all things new.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 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.

***HYMN 307**

God of Grace and God of Glory

BENEDICTION

*Please stand in body or spirit

Announcements

Thank you for joining us for worship this Sunday! We hope you will find it to be an uplifting and meaningful experience. If you are a **guest or visitor**, we invite you to stop by our information desk in the Narthex (entry space). We have a gift for you as well as some information about our wonderful community of faith. If you feel comfortable sharing your contact information, we invite you to also fill out a visitor card.

Families with young children are invited to stop by the children's corner in the Narthex. Here you can check in your children for nursery care and staff can direct you to our downstairs classrooms. There are also worship/activity bags available.

Earth Care Litany - In recognition of Earth Day, we have included an Earth Care Litany in today's service. The text is taken from the Directory of Worship section in our Book of Order. Starmount Presbyterian Church was certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program this year! We will celebrate Earth Care Sunday on **June 4th**.

Starmount Presbyterian Youth (SPY) activities for **April:**

April 30th – SPY; Come for dinner, games, and some community discussion as we center ourselves after spring break.

Contact Laura for additional information.

laura@starmountpres.org

Thank you Jada! Join us for a reception in the Narthex following worship on **April 30th** as we recognize and thank Jada for her time with us as Interim Director of Music.

Welcome Sarah! Join us for a reception in the Narthex following worship on **May 7th** as we welcome Sarah as our Director of Music.

Nominating Committee recommendations: Nominations are currently being solicited from the congregation for individuals to serve on the 2023 nominating committee. Please submit your recommendations to the church office **prior to April 25th**. Submit by email to anne@starmountpres.org.

Hymn Sing at Oden Brewing Company - On **April 30th**, Oden Brewing Co. will be holding a Hymn Sing from 3 - 4:30 p.m. This is not a Starmount event, but we are co-opting to make it a Connections gathering. It will be outdoors and is kid and pet friendly!

Friday, May 5th we will have an evening of music and fellowship featuring Elliott Michael Smith.

Sentimental Journey - Join us as we honor our members 80 years and older with a luncheon and tea following the service on **May 21st**! There is no cost to those 80 years and older and a suggested donation of \$15 for those under 80. You can register using the link in your congregational email or by calling the church office at 336-299-8131.

Save the date for Starmount's intergenerational (14 yrs. old and up) **Mission Trip** to Eastern Kentucky, **July 9-15**. Contact Neil Huffman for details at mnhuff@earthlink.net.

Faith Formation Opportunity Interest - Following the success of our Lenten study groups, we are interested in hearing from the congregation regarding faith formation opportunities going forward. If you have any interest in attending a Bible and/or Book study, or prayer group on an on-going basis, please contact Charlie by email at charlie@starmountpres.org. Please also indicate if you would be willing to serve as a coordinator/organizer of a group, or if you would be willing to occasionally teach a class.

Pine Straw - If you're interested in purchasing pine straw with proceeds benefitting future mission trips, please contact Neil Huffman at mnhuff@earthlink.net.

Tiny House Update - As the seasons change, and hopefully dry out, we will look to schedule some workdays to continue work on the Starmount home over the coming months. Watch for notices here and in your emails. Contact Kevin Kattmann, kkattmann62@yahoo.com, if you have questions or are interested in volunteering.

If you are interested in **reserving flowers** for a future Sunday, please contact Jinny Buchanan at jinnybug@mindspring.com to reserve your Sunday.

Open Sundays are - 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/18, 6/25

Starmount Presbyterian Church Program Staff

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee, Pastor

Rev. Scott Lawson, Parish Associate

Jada Poteat, Interim Director of Music

Michael Parker, Pianist/Organist

Cindy Lee, Director of Children's Ministries

Laura Roberson Hadas, Director of Youth & Refugee Ministries

Starmount Presbyterian Church
starmountpres.org
(336) 299-8131



Welcome to Sunday Worship
April 23, 2023 · 10:00 a.m.