

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 John 4

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent God's Son into the world so that we might live through him.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Let us worship this God who is love!**GATHERING MUSIC****HYMN 401***Here in This Place***PRAYER****OPENING MUSIC**

Starmount Ringers

SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint; lint that you, Compassionate God would toss aside as useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command-to love, and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts. Forgive us. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way. Nurture us through lessons of how our Lord Jesus nurtured others. Use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop in us.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

RESPONSE**HYMN 447***We Are Forgiven***CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION*****HYMN 729***Lord, I Want to Be a Christian***SCRIPTURE READING**

Acts 8: 26-31, 35-38

SERMON

"An Ever-Expanding Gospel"

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

ANTHEM*O God Beyond All Praising*

Arr. McAninch

Starmount Ringers

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

SABBATICAL BLESSING***Congregation Response:****We will, with God's help.****LAYING ON OF HANDS – UNISON PRAYER**

Gracious God, we ask your blessing upon Charlie and his family, the leaders, and the membership of this congregation during this Sabbatical time. By your Spirit, empower all to be strengthened in the gifts you give and renewed as servants of God. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

HYMN 611Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee***BENEDICTION*****Please stand in body or spirit**

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Kevin & Kris Kattmann in appreciation of Megan Weiss and Bronwyn Weikert. We wish them the best of luck as they graduate from UNCG and move on to further their education.

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.

Upcoming Sabbatical - Charlie will begin a 3-month sabbatical following worship today, April 28th. We welcome Rev. Judy Fitchett to the staff team who will be serving as a Parish Associate during this period. We have formed a Sabbatical Team to lead during Charlie's absence: Judy Fitchett, Scott Lawson, Laura Roberson Hadas, Jan Epps-Dawson, & Frank Burton.

Join us **today** following worship for an **Earth Day Fair**. Come for education and some opportunities to support local businesses and agencies. There will be native plants and locally grown flowers for sale!

Homegrown Hootenanny - Friday, May 10, 6 pm - Starmount parking lot. Join us for an evening of singing and merry-making, featuring musicians from Starmount! All you need is something to sit on and whatever you would like to eat. Your connections ministry team will provide drinks, ice-cold watermelon (and paper towels)! Bring a friend or neighbor to enjoy some good, old-fashion FUN!

Habitat for Humanity – The Mission Ministry is happy to announce an upcoming volunteer opportunity with Habitat for Humanity. There will be a workday on **Saturday, June 8, 8 – 11:30 am**. You can also help Habitat by purchasing gift cards to be presented to new homeowners (Lowes Hardware, Home Depot, Harris Teeter, Walmart, etc.). Gift cards can be dropped off to Anne in the office **no later than May 15**.

Sentimental Journey: You are invited to join us for luncheon and a music program following worship on **Sunday, May 19**. We will honor our members that are 80 years of age and over. Those 80 years and older are free. Those under 80 are \$15. Reserve your place by registering through the weekly email or call the church office at 336-299-8131.

Summer Mission Trip: The time has come to sign up for the summer mission trip. If you are planning to attend, a \$50 deposit is requested by May 15. If you have any questions, please contact Neil Huffman at mnhuff@earthlink.net.

Vacation Bible School will be held **June 24 – 27** from 9am - 12pm. Register online through the weekly email link or call the office to register a child 3 years old - completed 5th grade.

Art & Bible Camp will be held **July 29 – August 1** from 9am - 12pm for children who have completed pre-k – 5th grade. Email laura@starmountpers.org with questions. Register online through the weekly email link or call the office.

Summer Stars will begin **June 10** from 9am – 1pm and run for multiple weeks through the summer. See your weekly email for details of each week. Contact cindy@starmountpres.org with questions.

Reminder: The May Newsletter will be sent on Wednesday, May 1. Several printed versions will be available next Sunday in the Narthex.



Starmount Presbyterian Church Program Staff

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee, Pastor

Rev. Scott Lawson, Parish Associate

Sarah Downey, 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 28, 2024 · 10:00 a.m.