



Christian hope does not promise successful days to the rich and the strong, but resurrection and life to those who must exist in the shadows of death. Success is no name of God. Righteousness is.

Jürgen Moltmann

**MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2021** | **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## Carillon Prelude

## - ENTRANCE -

## Pastoral Welcome

The Reverend Dr. Cathy S. Gilliard

*We welcome all visitors to our service this morning. If you wish to sign up for our email newsletter, please visit [paumcnyc.org/maillinglist](http://paumcnyc.org/maillinglist).*

## Call to Worship

Isaiah Fish

One: In the wilderness, water brings life.

**People: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

One: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

**People: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

One: In the bread and the cup, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

**People: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

One: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity. Let us worship together!

## Opening Hymn | UMH #400 - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.*

*Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.*

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758

Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

## Prayer of the Day

One: Almighty God, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us this day and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation. In the name of the Triune God we pray, who was and is and ever more shall be. Amen.

**- PROCLAMATION -****The New Testament Lesson**

Acts 8:26-40

Reader: Sarah Hathaway

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*From the New Revised Standard Version*

One: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Christ's Peace**

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Please greet one those around you at home with a sign of peace and love.*

**Hymn | UMH #334 - Sweet, Sweet Spirit**

*There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

*Sweet, Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
When we shall leave this place.*

Words & Music: Doris Akers, 1962

## Musical Reflection

### - RESPONSE -

## Virtual Offering & Blessing

To give to Park Avenue United Methodist Church online, visit [paumcnyc.org/give](http://paumcnyc.org/give). For more information or to give to our 2021 Easter Offering, see the announcement on the next page or visit [paumcnyc.org/easter](http://paumcnyc.org/easter).

## Presentation Hymn | UMH #94 - The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilber H. Vieira, 1978  
Music: Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

## Confession and Pardon

Minister: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbor. Let us pray.

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruits of your Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ.

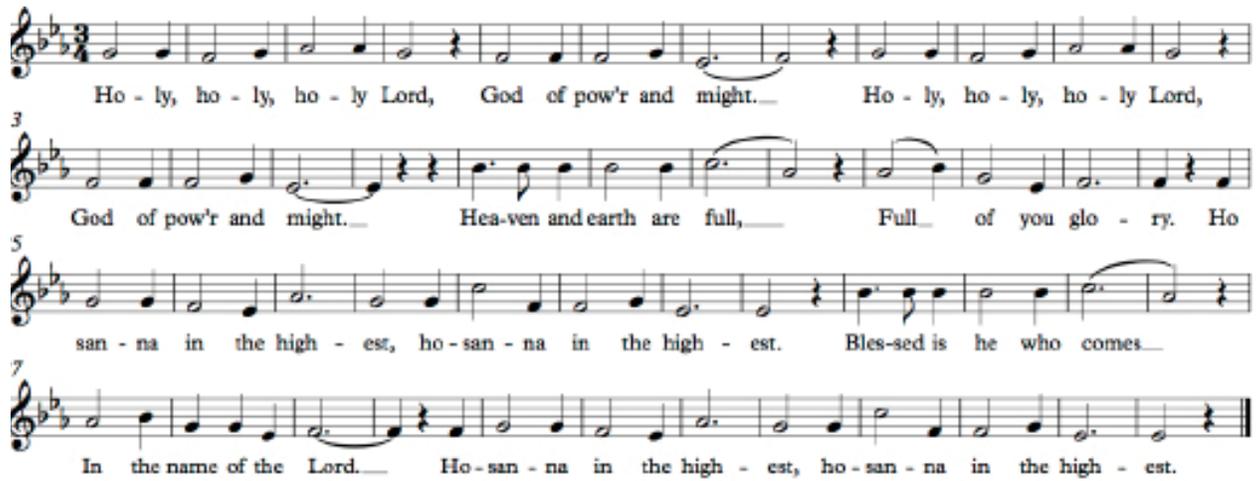
*Silent Prayer*

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

## The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God. It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
3 God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full, Full of you glo - ry. Ho  
5 san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bles-sed is he who comes  
7 In the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Minister:

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People:



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a-gain.

Minister:

Therefore, we celebrate in gladness; for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Accept through him, our great high priest, this, our sacrifice of praise. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and the blood of Christ. Gather us, who share this feast, into the kingdom of your glory that with all your people in every time and place we may praise and worship you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

People:



A - men, a - men a - men, a - men.

## The 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 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.

**Choral Anthem** | "The Lord's Prayer" by Albert Hay Malotte

## The Apostle's 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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## - SENDING FORTH -

**Closing Hymn** | UMH #133 - Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Words: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887  
Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

## Benediction

**Musical Benediction** | "God Be With You" by Derrick Byars

## WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US TODAY.

If you're new to our community, here are a few ways to get to know us:

- **Visit our website** at [paumcnyc.org](http://paumcnyc.org) to learn more about our community.
- **Follow us online** on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram at [@paumcnyc](https://www.instagram.com/paumcnyc).
- **Join our mailing list.** Stay up to date with everything happening at PAUMC by signing up for our mailing list. You will receive Pastor Cathy's weekly reflection, *Life & Faith*, and other important announcements. Sign up on our website at [paumcnyc.org/maillinglist](http://paumcnyc.org/maillinglist).
- **Fill out a connection card.** Let us know that you worshipped with us today! The card can be found online at [paumcnyc.org/visitors](http://paumcnyc.org/visitors).

## PARK AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS...

- A diverse congregation representing more than 40 nationalities.
- A community of believers who affirm Christ's call to love God with all that we are and serve our neighbors as ourselves.
- A place that is open and affirming to our visitors. All people are welcome here.
- A part of a world-wide, Christian denomination, the United Methodist Church.
- An anti-racist congregation under construction. Visit [paumcnyc.org/antiracism](http://paumcnyc.org/antiracism) to learn more.
- A member of the Reconciling Ministries Network, which mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love. Visit [rmnetwork.org](http://rmnetwork.org) to learn more.

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## - ANNOUNCEMENTS -

### Virtual Coffee Hour

Please bring your coffee and join us **today at 12:30pm** for a virtual coffee hour. It's been so lovely to see each other in our small groups, and this will let us connect and catch up with more members of our church family. Jennifer Jacob and Robin Ghaleb will administer the event and help facilitate the conversation to make sure everyone gets a chance to share. We look forward to seeing you!

#### Zoom Call Information:

Meeting ID: 212 427 5421

Password: 72862

*If you wish to join the Zoom call by telephone (voice only):*

- Call **(646) 876-9923**
- When prompted for the Meeting ID, enter **212 427 5421** followed by **#**.
- When prompted for a User ID, simply press **#**.
- When prompted for the password, enter **72862** followed by another **#**.

### 2021 Easter Offering

Since we last worshipped together in the sanctuary on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the church's virtual reach through our website, Facebook, Periscope, and YouTube has expanded across the country and many parts of the world, with family and friends watching from as far away as France, Korea, India, and several countries in Africa.

Needless to say, this is the way of the present as well as the way of the future. We cannot return to sanctuary-only worship, even when we are able to return to in-person worship. As part of our Beyond 2020 Campaign, we are hoping to raise \$50,000 this year specifically for the purchase and upgrading equipment to enhance our live-streaming capabilities, ensuring that members and friends will be able to continue worshipping with us where they are in the world.

Throughout the season of Easter, we are asking each household to donate a special Easter gift of \$100 or more toward this effort. This campaign will culminate on **Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, which is both Pentecost and Pastor Cathy's last Sunday before heading out on sabbatical. While doing so might pose a hardship for some, please give whatever you can—no gift is too small, and there will be other opportunities throughout the year to support this special initiative. To give, visit [paumcnyc.org/easter](http://paumcnyc.org/easter).

### **Lectio Prayer Service | Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm**

Join us on Zoom for a service guided by the rhythm of Lectio Divina (Latin for “divine reading”), an ancient way of prayerfully reading and meditating upon Scripture, on **Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm**. Any and all are welcome to attend. For more information, contact [Isaiah at isaiah@paumcnyc.org](mailto:isaiah@paumcnyc.org).

### **Young Adult Virtual Happy Hour | Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

All young adults are invited to gather on Zoom on **Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** for a virtual happy hour. All are invited, and there are no age limits for the young adult group! To RSVP, email [Isaiah at isaiah@paumcnyc.org](mailto:isaiah@paumcnyc.org).

### **Calling All Graduates!**

Are you or someone you know graduating from high school, college, or a graduate program this spring? Be sure to let us know! We would love to celebrate you for your hard work and dedication. To let us know, please email [Isaiah at isaiah@paumcnyc.org](mailto:isaiah@paumcnyc.org).

### **Interested in Joining a Small Group?**

Over the past year, our community has been virtually meeting in small groups to fellowship and gather together while we cannot meet in person. If you are not part of a small group and wish to join one, please email the church office at [office@paumcnyc.org](mailto:office@paumcnyc.org).

### **Church Office Availability**

Please note that, due to the pandemic and the majority of our staff working from home, there may not be someone in the office if you attempt to call or visit during the week. To ensure that you will receive a prompt response, please email Nicole in the church office at [office@paumcnyc.org](mailto:office@paumcnyc.org) if you have any questions or messages. A full list of the emails for our staff can be found on the next page.

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## **- MAY PRAYER OF THE MONTH -**

Come, Holy Spirit, come, and breathe on us. Interpret the signs of this time that are calling to us and make plain what we are to be doing. Give us renewed hope and greater determination to love as you love and work for justice and the common good of all. When we grow weary, renew our strength. When we lose our way, redirect our path. When we are afraid, assure us that we never walk alone, for you are with us always. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

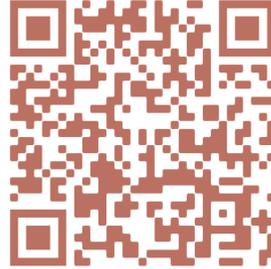
## - SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY -

Use the QR codes below to visit our PayPal giving donation page and the donation page for our 2021 Easter Offering. You may also search for us on Zelle via the username [accounting@paumcnyc.org](mailto:accounting@paumcnyc.org).

If you wish to give in a more traditional manner, you may email a check to:  
Park Avenue United Methodist Church, 106 East 86th Street, New York, NY 10028



Give to PAUMC



2021 Easter Offering

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## - CHURCH STAFF -

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