



Greystone
Baptist Church

*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6

The Worship of God

Third Sunday of Easter | Service of Hope and Resilience

May 1, 2022

All are invited to sing during worship! Masks are recommended but not required. For anyone who would like to wear a mask but does not have one, they are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Prelude

“This Is My Father’s World”
Cynthia Griesedieck

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

✠ Call to Worship: Day of Hope and Resilience

Steve Rose

One: This place for us is Holy Ground

All: The place where we sing songs of praise to the Lord, and repeat the stories of faith that inspire us to respond to Christ’s love.

One: God calls us here,

All: in whispering winds and in burning flames.

One: At times it seems that we arrive alone, especially when we are worried, grieving, and broken.

All: But we are not alone.

One: God is here, meeting us in our vulnerability.

All: Let us worship the One who is our Emmanuel, God with us.

✠ Opening Hymn 575

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

SHOWALTER;

Words by Elisha A. Hoffman,
Music by Anthony J. Showalter

*During the last stanza of our opening hymn,
all children are invited to come forward for today's children's sermon.*

Children’s Sermon

April Alston

✠ Please rise in body or spirit.

Prayer of Remembrance

(based on Psalm 22)

Ministerial Staff

One: Oh God, our God, why have you forsaken us?
Why are you so far from helping us, so far from the words of our groaning?

**All: We cry by day to you, but you do not answer,
and by night, but we find no rest.**

One: In you, our ancestors trusted. They trusted and you delivered them.

**All: It was you who brought each of us from the womb,
you who breathed life into our flesh and bone,
you who kept us safe,
all the days of our lives, you have been our God.**

One: Do not be far from us now, Oh God, for grief and pain are near, and there seems to be no one to help.

**All: The words of scripture remind us: God does not hide from us. When we cry to God,
God hears our cries.**

One: Though the pandemic has not come to an end, we give thanks for the moment we are in. We give thanks for vaccines, for treatments, for medicines, and knowledge that helps us move forward. We give thanks for scientists and medical professionals who have labored tirelessly. And we give thanks for the opportunity to gather in person, to name our losses, our pain, and our grief, knowing that when we share these burdens together, the yoke is lighter for us all.

We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. As we read their names, we pause to remember their faces, their voices, the sound of their laughter, and the warmth of their embrace.

We give God thanks for their lives and the memories that bind us to them, even here, even now.

Jud Ammons

Lib Daniels

Chris Lannom

Wayne Smith

Emmett Baldridge

Mel Dickens

Walter (Skip) Mays

Darrell Staley

Caralie Brown

Vercie Eller

Pauline Noble

Eileen Trawick

Betty Cornwell

Sallie Greene

Monaei Perry

Molly Walker

Virginia Creamer

Evelyn Harper

Juanita Register

Christopher Washington

All: We give you thanks, O God, for these beloved souls. We thank you for the memories we hold and for the promise of eternal life.

One: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of health, loss of faith, loss of joy, and perhaps even loss of a dream, a hope, or a future we will never realize. Recognizing these losses are often too personal or too vulnerable to name out loud, we name them in silence before our God who knows the longings of our hearts. (*pray silently*)

(cont'd next page)

One: We now turn our gaze to the Christ Candle, the light that burns now and forever, reminding us that though we may experience pain, abandonment, insecurity, failure, and loss, God is with us through it all.

All: May the light of Christ shine through us and within us, reminding us all that God hears our cries, sees our tears, and knows the longings of our hearts.

One: May we rest in the knowledge that we are known, we are held, and we are loved by God.

As our offertory anthem is sung, please feel free to move about to place your offering in the plate in the back of the sanctuary, or you can give online at greystonechurch.org.

Offertory Anthem

“Spirit of Comfort, Spirit of Hope”
GBC Adult Choir

by Douglas Nolan,
arr. David Angerman

Lord, You are God, in the tempest and the gale.
Lord, You alone are God and Your mercies never fail.
For Your love is everlasting and your peace can calm our fears.
Lord, Your grace is like an ark sailing through a sea of tears.

Spirit, Holy, come and fill this house with grace.
Spirit, Worthy, we are one in Your embrace.
Spirit, come inhabit all our praise.
As we worship and we pray, help us Lord, to find our way.
Spirit, come renew our hearts today.

Spirit, Holy, You are faithful, You are true.
Jesus, Worthy, all our joy begins with You.
Spirit, come empower all we do.
Make this church a welcome place filled with mercy, love, and grace.
Spirit, come refresh our faith today.

Come, Spirit, shower us with promise and with love.
Restore our lives, refresh our faith.
Stretch out Your rainbow of assurance before us.
Descend with power. Descend with power. Descend with power on this place.

Spirit, Holy, come and fill this house with grace.
Spirit, Worthy, we are one in Your embrace.
Spirit, come inhabit all our praise.
Breathe in us a mighty wind; help this church to dream again.
Spirit, come restore our hope today.
Spirit, come restore our hope.
Spirit, come refresh our faith.
Spirit, come renew our hearts today.

† **Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below; O praise God! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
O praise God! O praise God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prayer of Dedication

Blair Andrew

Scripture Reading

Exodus 3:1-4

Cathy Perkinson

Sermon

“From Curiosity to Promise”

Dennis Herman

Silent Reflection

Musical Reflection 589

“Here I Am, Lord”

HERE I AM, LORD;
Words & Music by Daniel L.Schutte
Words based on. Isaiah 6:8

Communion

Chrissy Tatum Williamson and Dennis Herman

Passing of the Peace

† **Song of Response**

“Living Stones”

Words and Music by
Christian McIvor ©2020

Verse 1:

**Come! See! Let your heart be set on fire!
And go! Tell! Add your voice now to the choir!
Join us as we sound the invitation
To work to bring about a new creation!**

Pre-chorus:

**Here, we are answering our call;
Every member equipped to bring light and hope to all.**

Chorus:

**We will bring God’s reign near and in the love of Christ be led,
Doing the Word, making it heard.
And all are welcome here! Come to the table and be fed!
From near and far, come as you are.
Here, you will never be alone.
In the glory of God, we’re building a church of living stones!**

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Verse 2:

**Open up your mind to transformation
That offers justice, peace, and liberation.
Growing as we honor our tradition;
Together, we'll move forward in our mission.**

(Pre-chorus, Chorus 2x)

Celebrating Community

April Alston

Benediction

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Postlude

“Learning to Lean/Leaning On the Everlasting Arms”
Cynthia Griesedieck

arr. Lura Keiter

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We welcome Rev. Dr. Dennis Herman as our guest preacher this morning. Dr. Herman retired as senior pastor of Greystone Baptist Church in 2010. Previous to that time he had served as pastor and chaplain at churches and hospitals in Virginia and in South America. Dennis is married to Betsy and they have three children and six grandchildren. He and Betsy are now fully retired and live in Asheville.

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