

<p style="text-align: center;">Third Sunday of Easter - Church Under A Tent April 19, 2026</p>
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Preservice Music

Decatur Street Beat

Welcome and Invitation to Discipleship

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Leader: Easter people, we gather today as people who spent the week inundated with news reports, social media posts, and reels that inundated us with information, worry, and stress.

People: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious, wondering who we can believe.

Leader: We gather as people who long for peace, for God to break through and bring us clarity and hope once again.

People: **Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we don't always recognize when the Risen One comes alongside us, showing us the way where there seems to be no way.**

Leader: We gather as people hoping to catch a glimmer of Resurrection, ready for our hearts to burn with the truth of the resurrected Christ.

People: **Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we open our hearts to the possibility that God's Resurrection life is closer than we think.**

Leader: Easter people, God knows the burdens we carry, and God is faithful to meet us where we are with good news.

People: **May the good news of the Resurrection astound us today as we come to worship God! Amen.**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.

Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn

“I’ll Fly Away”

1. Some glad morning, when this life is o’er, I’ll fly away. To a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away.

Chorus: I’ll fly away O Glory, I’ll fly away. When I die, Hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away.

2. When the shadows of this life have gone, I’ll fly away. Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I’ll fly away. *Chorus*
3. Just a few more weary days and then, I’ll fly away. To a land where joys shall never end. I’ll fly away. *Chorus*

*Affirmation of Faith:

Leader: What can separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

People: No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen

Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as your Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

Psalm 116

Children’s Sermon

Autumn Gentry

Sermon: “You’ve Freed Me From My Chains!” Reverend Ed Priestaf

Hymn

“Blessed Assurance”

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Chorus: This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long! (Repeat)

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture burst on my sight. Angels descending, bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Chorus*
3. Perfect submission, all is at rest! I in my Savior am happy and blessed. Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Chorus*

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 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.

Offertory:

*Doxology 94

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 uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Closing Hymn **“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”**

1. 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.

Chorus: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms. Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. 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. *Chorus*

3. 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. *Chorus*

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

“When the Saints Go Marching In”

***Please Stand As You Are Able**

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**ARMENIAN MISSION PRESENTATION**

Our Long Memorial United Women In Faith will host an Armenian Mission Presentation, on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. in the Harris Fellowship Hall. All congregation members are welcome to attend.

**Mother’s Day Bulletin!!!**

Remember a SPECIAL LADY on Mother’s Day by having her name included in our special Mother’s Day Bulletin.

Cost: \$5 per name. Sponsored by the UMYF. Please respond by e-mail to Autumn Gentry. Do not mail it. **Deadline is: Wednesday, May 6th at Noon.**

**Autumn’s e-mail address is: [autumngentry23@gmail.com](mailto:autumngentry23@gmail.com)**

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

In our continued efforts to be transparent and good stewards of that with which we have been entrusted, we will be sharing up-to-date financial information each month:

Here is information about our church's 2026 financial giving, as of Sunday, April 12, which is 29% of the calendar year. There are 37 Sundays remaining in 2026:

2026 Budget: \$487,208

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,369

Budget giving through April 12: \$138,800 (28% of budget)

Amount of Budget to be raised: \$348,408 (72% of the budget)

Sunday, April 12 budget giving: \$24,099.

We appreciate the commitment many of our congregation members gave through pledges. Of the \$370,360 in pledges that were made for 2026, we have received \$107,698 (29%).

We thank you for your faithfulness in discerning what God has called you to share. We trust that God will help us all be good stewards of the blessings God has provided!