

Worship Volunteers:

Greeter/Ushers: Dallao-Manchester Family & Peggy Rainwater

Assisting Minister: Krista Martin

Reader: Eleanor Grant

Children Sermon: Greg Roth

Communion Assistants: Eddy Ameen & Lord Family

Counters: Alexander Adams & Betsy Mountenay

Friends of the Feast: Tara Hogan

Live-Broadcasting: Patrick Callahan

Staff Lead: Krista Sickert-Bush

Luther Place Staff

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Nancy White, **Office Volunteer**



HOSPITALITY + WORSHIP + SPIRITUAL GROWTH + JUSTICE + COMMUNITY CARE



FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

April 22nd 2018

10:30 AM Service of Communion

Rev. Karen Brau, Senior Pastor

Luther Place Memorial Church

1226 Vermont Ave, NW Washington, DC 20005 ♦ (202) 667-1377 ♦ www.lutherplace.org

Our Purpose

God's purpose for our congregation is to grow a Christ-centered inclusive community, led by the Spirit, that proclaims the Gospel's transforming love and grace and challenges injustice.

Our Guiding Principles

1. All of God's creation is sacred.
2. We listen to the Holy Spirit through worship, Scripture, and prayerful reflection.
3. We seek continuous transformation to become radically hospitable.
4. We invite all into the journey with Christ through reconciliation with each other and God.
5. We respond to injustice through loving service and courageous action.
6. We walk together in our celebrations and our struggles.

Our Vision

Luther Place will be a community that looks and feels like God's kingdom in its beautiful expansiveness, where all are called into relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. In this place we will use our gifts to act in the world and build the beloved community.

Worship attracts and gathers a range of people with various services and styles, engaging the community in a depth of traditional practices and creative endeavors.

Spiritual Growth is how we are formed as disciples of Jesus Christ, embracing scripture and all opportunities to engage the divine, and nurturing us to contemplate, study, and question our faith.

Justice is a public witness to our faith; we will continue our history of openness to what arrives, standing in solidarity and acting with people who are struggling in our community, country, and world.

Hospitality is how we—each of us—extend God's kingdom to a dynamic and diverse city, growing our community and engaging all of God's children, from the powerless to the powerful.

Community Care is how we sustain a vibrant community, our intentional practice of supporting and nurturing one another in all stages of life, in celebration and sorrow.

Today—Community Care Open Forums, 9:15 am

Do you have thoughts about community care at Luther Place? What is going well? What could we do better? The Community Care Team will host an open forum for the congregation to share feedback and ideas in the Chapel today. Please join us. If you can't make this forum, keep an eye out for an online survey coming soon.

Send a Kid to Camp! ArtSmart Camp Fundraiser April 25, 6pm-8pm

Come for an evening -- hear parent testimonies, see the children's art displayed, enjoy food and drink, and take advantage of the opportunity to celebrate what community and unlikely relationships can produce! Our goal is to raise \$22,000.00 to support 40 ArtSmart Campers ages six to twelve-year-old and 15+ adult staff to engage and mentor all these children. Event hosted at Fathom Art Gallery 1333 14th Street, NW Tickets are \$25.00 sold at <https://supportartsmart2018.eventbrite.com>

Wise Elders Brunch, April 29, 12 pm

Please join us for our quarterly brunch following the 10:30 am service. We welcome this time for intergenerational fellowship and discussions around our personal faith journeys. Many of our wise elders were congregants at Luther Place in 1968 and witnessed the DC riots in response to the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Their visions and actions formed the beginnings of our modern urban ministry. Please RSVP to operations@lutherplace.org.

Bishop Rutsindinwarne Visit, April 29, 9:15 am

Assistant Bishop John Rutsindinwarne, Lutheran Church of Rwanda, will speak at the Luther Place Adult Spiritual Formation class on April 29 at 9:15 am. Bishop Rutsindinwarne is a long-time friend of Luther Place having interned here in 2001. Luther Place has been supporting his reconciliation and community development work in Rwanda since 2006. A Luther Place delegation of 14 people went to Rwanda to visit the bishop and see his projects in action. Luther Place support enabled the bishop's team to build a medical clinic in rural southeast Rwanda. Members Margaret and Gary Maring made a second visit to Rwanda in 2011 to assist with installing solar power for the medical clinic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, we pray for:

Welcome baby Joey to Karen & Sean Gardner!
Christiana Lindholm & family on the death of her grandfather.
Henry Bowden and family as they grieve the death of his brother, Steve.
Alberta William who is in the hospital recovering from surgery.

Congregational Offering

March 2018

Budgeted: \$42,000

Actual: \$42,857

YTD as of 3/31/18

Budgeted: \$148,000

Actual: \$135,205

Pastor Karen Sabbatical, September-November 2018

Pastor Karen will go on sabbatical later this year. Please see website for a blog on Sabbath Care!

20s/30s Bible Study Series, April 9 - May 30

Easter Sunday is just the beginning. This Easter season, the 20s/30s group will be hosting a four-part Bible study on mourning and dancing. Join us for dinner at Vanesa's apartment in Capitol Hill as we delve into scripture to explore life's different seasons.

Today—WIN Listening Session, April 22, 12 pm

Following the 10:30 am service today in the Chapel, you are invited to attend a listening session that will further shape the way in which the congregation is involved with the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN). With guided questions, you'll have the opportunity to share your own interests and goals around engaging with issues facing our community in Washington, D.C. Contact Christina Andeweg to RSVP or ask questions: andeweg.c@gmail.com

Welcome to worship at Luther Place!

Are you a guest? If so, here are some things you might like to know...

Please fill out a card to let us know who you are—we'd love to be in touch with you! The cards can be placed in the offering plate when completed. We are blessed by your presence and hope you will join us again.

Parking is available **across the street in the Washington Plaza Hotel**. The garage has **two** floors available. Please ask an usher for a parking voucher. Your reimbursement of the cost of \$5 per use will be greatly appreciated. Additionally, we reserve the parking spots in the circle driveway on Vermont Ave. for use by those with mobility issues and their drivers. We encourage the use of public transportation; free bike parking is available inside the Vermont entrance to Luther Place.

A children's nursery is available before, during, and after worship. The nursery is located within the chapel by the entrance on N Street.

Children's church bags are located in the back of the Sanctuary. The activity bags are for kids of all ages; they include crayons, a coloring book, books to read, etc. Please help children use these materials for doodling rather than the gift envelopes and prayer cards.

Video Recordings of Worship Services are available on the Luther Place website: www.lutherplace.org/sermons.

In prayers and songs, the bold print is congregational response.
P= pastor; A= assisting minister; C= congregation.

Here at Luther Place, we love to sing!



We like to explore a diversity of music, though much of it comes from the **Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal (ELW)**. This hymnal holds service music in the first half and hymns in the second half. The service music can be found with the small page numbers at the bottom of each page. The hymns can be found using the large numbers at the top of each page. We also use hymns from This Far by Faith Hymnal (TFF), the Lutheran African American hymnal.

References to God in traditional prayers and hymns may sometimes be gender specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God. You are also invited to sing hymns or speak parts of the services, such as The Lord's Prayer, in your native tongue.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

We welcome you to worship today! If you are a visitor, please fill out a welcome card at the ends of the pews, and put in offering plate or give to an usher.

Creation Liturgy

A: Let the light fall warm and red on the rock, let the birds sing their evening song and let God's people say Amen.

C: Amen.

A: Let the tools be stored away, let the work be over and done and let God's people say Amen.

C: Amen.

A: Let the flowers close and the stars appear, let hearts be glad and minds be calm and let God's people say Amen.

C: Amen.

Confession

A: O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,

C: Open your eyes to see.

A: O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,

C: Open your eyes to see.

A: O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,

C: Open your eyes to see.

A: O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering,

C: Open your eyes to see.

Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection
that we may show your glory to all the world;
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

***Prayer after Communion**

A May God who has brought us from death to life
fill you with great joy, and bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Sending Song: ELW 821 Shout to the Lord

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

A: God our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,

C: That we repent and care more deeply.

A: So move us to grieve the loss of life,

C: That we learn to cherish and protect your world.

***Gathering Song: ELW 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie**



1, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
2	Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

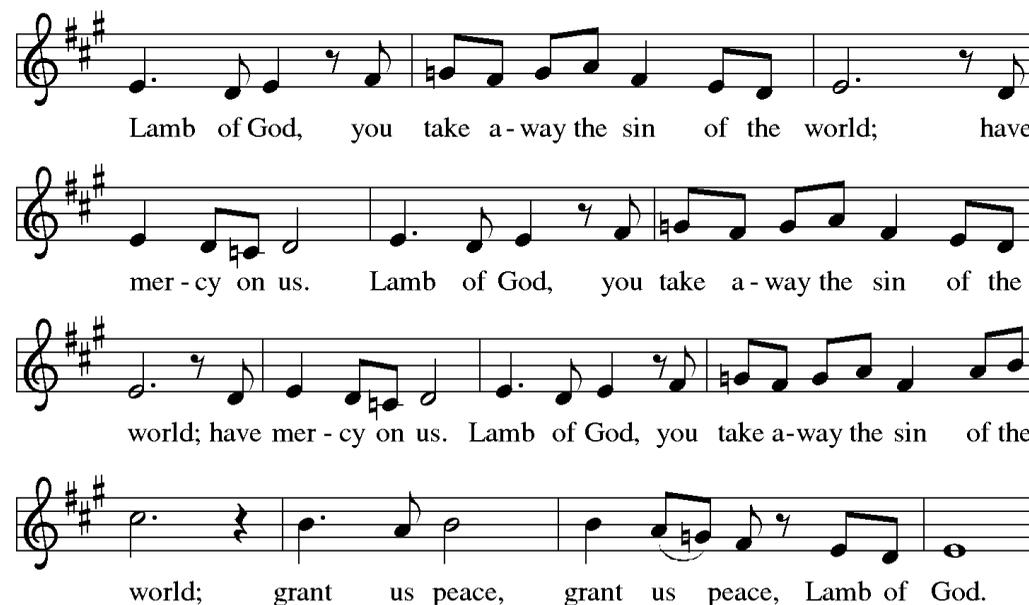
³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

*Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution

Communion (Eucharist) celebrated at Luther Place is open to all. Ushers will direct you to the correct station. We use two cups; one with wine and the other with juice. You may either dip the bread into the cup (intinction) or eat the bread first and drink from the cup. Gluten-free wafers are available on the altar. Return to your seat using the exterior aisles.

Communion:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion Song: ELW 465—As the Grains of Wheat

*Table Blessing

P: Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

C: Amen.

*Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

now and forever.

Amen.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

C: Thanks be to God!

*Gospel Acclamation: Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. *End*
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

***HOLY GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John

John 10:11-18

C: Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: Green Pastures

Rev. Karen Brau

Live-tweeting and posting on social media is encouraged! Please use #FollowingJesus #RealChurch #EasterSeasonBeauty and don’t forget to tag @LutherPlace and @KarenBrau.

Be a Gardener

Be a gardener.
Dig a ditch,
toil and sweat,
and turn the earth upside down
and seek the deepness
and water the plants in time.
Continue this labor
and make sweet floods to run

MEAL

***The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right...

***Sanctus**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Offering

Please feel free to put cash or check in the offering plate. You can also donate through a text donation by texting the dollar amount to +12028166673.

Stewardship Matters—Living Together Generously:

Building for the Future. It is through relationships that we encourage and support spiritual growth in ourselves and others. By our word and example, a place to start is within the relationships of our families, with children and youth, friends, neighbors and co-workers. It is not whether Jesus shows up, but that we remember to “be in the moment” and intentionally look for Him in the spaces of our lives. See Jesus in those with whom you engage in life.

Offering Song: ELW 692 We Are an Offering

***Offering Prayer**

A: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

C: Amen.

and noble and abundant fruits
to spring.

Take the food and drink
and carry it to God
as your true worship.

— Julian of Norwich

***Hymn of the Day: TFBF—98 Open Our Eyes**

Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him,
And say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord,
And help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus

An African Creed (A Masai version of Christianity's Nicene Creed)

C: We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. God created humans and wanted humans to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in darkness, and now we know God in the light. God promised in the book of God's word, the bible, that God would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

We believe that God made good God's promise by sending God's son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He

lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies.

He is the Lord.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through God. All who have faith in God must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love and share the bread together in love, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.

Prayers of the People

(Adapted from, Braiding Sweetgrass, Robin Wall Kimmerer)

A: Today we have gathered and when we look upon the faces around us we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now let us bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People.

C: Now our minds are one.

A: We are thankful to our Mother the Earth, for she gives us everything that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she still continues to care for us, just as she has from the beginning of time. To our Mother, we send thanksgiving, love, and respect.

C: Now our minds are one.

A: We give thanks to all of the waters of the world for quenching our thirst, for providing strength and nurturing life for all beings. We know its power in many forms—waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans, snow and ice. We are grateful that the waters are still here and meeting their responsibility to the rest of Creation. Can we agree that water is important to our lives and bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to the Water?

C: Now our minds are one.

A: We are thankful for the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe.

They help to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.

C: Now our minds are one.

A: Now we turn to the west where our grandfathers the Thunder Beings live. With lightning and thundering voices they bring with them the water that renews life. We bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to our Grandfathers, the Thunderers.

C: Now our minds are one.

A: We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest brother the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.

C: Now our minds are one.

A: We now turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

C: Now our minds are one.

A: We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it is not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

C: Now our minds are one.

***Exchange of Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Announcements

All events & announcements may be found in the back of the bulletin.