

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2: 42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Goodness of God

Cece Winans

~ Youth Choir

(Jesse Brown, Marta Carlson, Sebastian Keeling, Emma McDonnell)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(After Children's Moment, children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Children's Church in Room L8, located downstairs. Children will return to the Sanctuary to receive Communion with their families.)

SERMON

~ Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

*HYMN #325 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus IN BABILONE

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The act of confessing our sins is not merely a recitation of our faults or of the ways we have wronged others; it is a communal acknowledgement of our need for grace, mercy and reconciliation. Trusting in the abiding goodness of God and in the love of this congregation, we pray first in silence and then together.

Silent prayer

Holy God, we confess that we have overlooked, disregarded and shut out people who don't look like we look, love like we love, think the way we think or vote the way we vote.

We confess that we have let fear govern rather than guide us. We confess that we are quick to judge and slow to forgive. We confess that we call out others' sins much more readily than our own.

Change us, O God, humble us, so that your love may enter in and fill us up.

Friends, let us proclaim the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed to love.

Alleluia, Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION

~ United Methodist Hymnal page 33

Elise Madeline Arnold (11:15 @ the Way),

Kara Renee Carpenter,

Jasper Andrew Divis,

Michael James Huff (11:15 @ the Way),

Lillian Harper Voigt

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Hear our prayer.**)*

Thanksgiving

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ, the Lord is Risen Again!

Alan Smith

Christ, the Lord is risen again! Christ hath broken every chain! Hark, angelic, voices, cry, singing evermore on high. Alleluia! He who bore all pain and loss comfortless upon the cross, lives in glory now on high, pleads for us and hears our cry. He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save; through the universe, it rings that the Lamb is King of kings. Alleluia!

*DOXOLOGY #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

See pp. 13-14 in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.

[We offer a gluten-free element option and always use grape juice, not wine]

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Communion Music

Fraction Anthem, Sanctus

Richard Proulx

Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Christ Be With Me

Oliver Tarney

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in the hearts of all who love me, Christ in the mouths of friend and stranger.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*HYMN #317 O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

O FILII ET FILIAE

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on O FILII ET FILIAE

Gilbert M. Martin

Leading Today's Worship Service:

Preaching: Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling, Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

Liturgist: Debra Fairweather

Organist/Choirmaster: Jonathan Saint-Thomas

Children's Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Acolyte: Alahnie Sherman

Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the Gathering Space.

Register your attendance using the QR code below or by using the attendance card located in the pew rack.



Congregational Prayers

Healing and Sympathy:

~For Bob O., as he faces serious health issues. Bob is a friend of Cindy Huber.

~For Susan French, as she prepares for back surgery on

April 29. Susan & Doug were long-time members of Mount Olivet.

~For Diane, sister-in-law of Dale Oak, who fell and is recovering from hip surgery.

~For Barb H. as she recovers from aortic valve replacement and prepares for some further procedures. Barb was married to Cindy Huber's godfather.

~For Chris, who is very ill and awaiting a diagnosis and treatment.

~For those suffering from chronic pain.

For those battling cancer and long-term illness: Heather Weir, Karen Watkins, Elizabeth Carnahan, Jason Micheli, Sally, Christine, Yarikza, Kate Heavner, Peter Joyce, Cindy, Tom Benson, Kay Lewis, Justin, Dena, Mary Hays, Susan Newton, Thomas Greving, Sue Mink, Chi Bahn, Michael Milano, Carole Shakkour.

Prayers for the World:

~For Brian and Shannon Straw, members of Mount Olivet, as Brian awaits trial on May 26 for taking part in a protest outside an immigrant processing facility in Chicago.

~For President Trump who announced Tuesday he is extending the ceasefire in the war with Iran "until such time as their leaders and representatives can come up with a unified proposal."

~For peace between the United States and Iran.

~For peace between Russia and Ukraine.

~For an end to wars around the world.

To submit a prayer concern go to our website mountolivetumc.com/prayers or use the back of the attendance card.

* * *

Please stand, as able, for those acts of worship marked with an asterisk.*

Words in bold type indicate a congregational response.

Announcements

Celebrating our New Space

On **Saturday, May 2** from 2-5 pm, we invite you to attend the Open House celebrating the restoration of a major portion of the church, which was damaged in a devastating fire over three years ago. We will host a short program in the sanctuary at 3:00 pm.

As Arlington's oldest church in continuous ministry at the same location, we will celebrate our 170 years on this site as well as current ministries that enrich our community.

The Open House will feature activities throughout the afternoon, a light lunch and activities for children. We welcome you at any time, and especially for the 3:00 pm event.

Please plan to come and share your faith by inviting a friend to this inclusive community event for all ages. Any questions contact the church office at (571) 447-3619.

Eastertide Study

With the opening of the fireside, closed for three-and-a-half years due to fire damage, this Easter season at Mount Olivet feels especially joyful and purposeful. This is a time of gathering and celebrating, of rebuilding and re-envisioning. Who are we as a community of faith? How are we growing? What are our hopes and dreams, and how can we serve our neighbors and strengthen our connections? With these questions in mind, Pastors Sara, Jett and Stephanie will be preaching and leading a study on the biblical book of Acts, a work by the gospel writer, Luke, detailing the birth and expansion of the early church. Please join us.

What: Study of Acts (reading, discussion, application)

When: Starting **April 30**, Thursdays, 7:15 – 8:30 pm for five weeks

Where: Zoom (link to follow)

How to prepare: Read the assigned chapter(s) for that week.

Contact Pastor Stephanie to register for the class or if you have any questions at sbekhor@mtolivet-umc.org

Community Assistance

It's time to volunteer for Community Assistance. Our next event is on Saturday, **May 9**. Please volunteer to help our neighbors in need receive some much-needed help with food and gift cards. Slots to volunteer are available from 8:00 am through 12:45 pm. Thank you for your continued support! Sign up on the SignupGenius link on our website.

You can make a financial contribution to Community Assistance, at the giving link on our website or by using the offering envelope in the pew rack and indicate Community Assistance. Thanks for your continued support of our Community Assistance Ministry.

Find additional announcements and more on our website mountolivetumc.com or subscribe to our weekly e-news.



April 26, 2026, 9:15 am

Welcome to worship at Mount Olivet! May you feel the warmth of this fellowship, the peace of prayer, and the joy of the Spirit as we worship together today.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Psalm Prelude Opus 32, No. 2

Herbert Howells

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, we gather this day to celebrate life –

the life we have been given by God,

the life we share with one another in community,

the life that Jesus gives in abundance,

the life that is ours in Christ.

Alleluia, Amen!

*HYMN #308 Thine Be the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Freeing God, open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.