

*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe
Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021*



“You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.”

Psalm 4:7, NRSV

Welcome

Ann Lux, Liturgist

Prelude

Threshold Moment

This is the Easter Season! The season of new life – and a breath of the Spirit. As we enter this time of worship together, may we be open to the renewal of our minds and spirits. May we dare to let go and dance – allowing resurrection hope to fill our bodies and souls!

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

“While in their joy” at seeing Jesus after the resurrection, the disciples were still “disbelieving and wondering.” Sometimes we are unsure about our next steps. Even though we may not know our next steps, we can be certain, as God’s beloved children, the Risen Christ will direct our steps and show us the way forward.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

This is the call!

Face this new day, even when you aren’t sure.

We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Get ready for life, for life is all around.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of hope and set out anyway.

For we are called to dance again!

Prayer

Ann Lux, Liturgist

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

You set this world in motion and gave it life.

Turn us to you when our steps are not sure.

Dance with us and engage us in the Easter dance of life.

We pray in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Opening Song of Praise

“Lord of the Dance”

Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Again and again, we lose our way.
We long to follow you,
Yet we are distracted by other paths and chart our own way.
We navigate by false stars and visions.
Forgive us when we are lured by lights in the distance,
Instead of remaining steadfast and steered by your Light.
Remind us that your way is The Way.
We forget we are claimed by you, loved by you,
And created to move to your holy rhythm.
Forgive our forgetfulness.
Forgive our short-term memory.
Remind us again and again
To dance in your love and to the beat of your heart.
Place your wounded hands upon our hearts.
Turn us again toward you.
Lord of Life. Lord of Light. Lord of Resurrection. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

The peace of the risen Christ be with you.
And also, with you.
You are invited to turn to wave to each other as a sign of graceful greetings this day.

A Story for All Ages *(Time with Children)*

The Story

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Let's offer a repeat-after-me-prayer:

“We offer thanks
we offer thanks
for dreamers true
for dreamers true
for all they are
for all they are
and all they do.
and all they do.
Let us become
let us become
dreamers too
dreamers too

and bring new life
and bring new life
to me and you!
to me and you!
Amen!
Amen!

The Word

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19 (NRSV)
Second Reading: I John 3:1-3 (NRSV)

Ann Lux, Liturgist
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Sounds of Resurrection

Musical Selection

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:36b-48
Sermon

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler
Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

Offering Our Resources and Our Energy

Ann Lux, Liturgist

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,
following Christ in a life resurrected,
teach me to act with compassion and justice,
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.**

**Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

Song for Stepping Out into the World

"Spirit, I Have Heard You 'Calling" by Thew Elliott

Charge

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Benediction

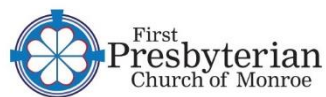
Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Our Loving God,
Risen Christ,
and Dancing, Swirling Spirit
will fill you with all you need.
May your life bring the beat of the Spirit
to all needing the rhythm of God's love.
The rhythm of Again and Again.
Go forth and dare to dance!
Be God's love letter to the world! Alleluia! Amen.

Postlude

FPC Monroe Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Pastor
Rob Edwards, Minister of Music
Ann Lux, Liturgist
Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team
Josh McMann, Sound Team
Randy Stiffler, Sound Team



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Prayer of Confession adapted from “A Prayer for When We’ve Lost Our Way,” by Enumo Okoro. A Rhythm of Prayer. Edited by Sarah Bessey. Convergent. New York. 2020. p. 118-119.

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Front cover art: stushieart.com