

# First Church Birmingham

A Reconciling United Methodist Congregation

April 27, 2025

## Second Sunday of Easter

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**Prelude—Child of Love (We the Kingdom)**

**The Loft Band**

I was walking the wayside  
Lost on a lonely road  
I was chasing the high life  
Tryna satisfy my soul

All the lies I believed in  
Left me crying like the rain  
Then I saw lightning from Heaven  
And I've never been the same

I'm gonna climb a mountain  
I'm gonna shout about it  
I am a child of love  
I found a world of freedom  
I found a friend in Jesus  
I am a child of love

I've felt the sting of the fire  
But I saw You in the flames  
Just when I thought it was over  
You broke me out of the grave

I'm gonna climb a mountain  
I'm gonna shout about it  
I am a child of love  
I found a world of freedom  
I found a friend in Jesus  
I am a child of love

I am a child of love, yeah, oh  
I am a child of love

Nothing can change the way  
You love me  
Nothing can change the way  
I belong to You  
Yes I do  
Nothing can separate

Nothing can change the way

You love me  
Nothing can change the way  
I belong to You  
Yes I do  
Nothing can separate

I'm gonna climb a mountain  
I am a child of love  
I found a world of freedom  
I am a child of love

I'm gonna climb a mountain  
I'm gonna shout about it  
I am a child of love  
I found a world of freedom  
I found a friend in Jesus  
I am a child of love, oh yeah

Yeah, I am a child of love  
I am a child of love

**Welcome**

**Courtney Hicks**

**Announcements**

**Rev. Katie Gilbert**

**Opening Hymn—The Day of Resurrection (LANCASHIRE)**

The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness,  
The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
From earth unto the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over,  
With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,  
That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal  
Of resurrection light;  
And listening to his accents,  
May hear, so calm and plain,  
his own “All hail!” and, hearing,  
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful!  
Let earth the song begin!  
Let the round world keep triumph,  
And all that is therein!  
Let all things seen and unseen  
Their notes in gladness blend,

For Christ the Lord hath risen,  
Our joy that hath no end.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Rev. Katie Gilbert**

**Loving God, we confess that too often we forget about the interconnectedness of our world and the profound impact we can have on one another. By centering our own perspectives and following our selfish ways, we regularly fail to see one another as we truly are. Forgive us for ignoring those who are suffering, wounded, lonely, and grieving in our very midst. Help us to see with your eyes, to move from sympathy to empathy that we might experience the fullness of a life lived as family. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

**Rev. Katie Gilbert**

Friends, the Divine does not keep score. God's love is wider than the ocean and more numbered than the stars. Even when we miss the mark, God forgives. Trust this truth: you are known, forgiven, and loved.  
**We are known, forgiven, and loved.  
Thanks be to God.**

*— Rev. Katie Gilbert*

**The Scripture Reading—Mark 5:25-34 (NIV)**

**Rev. Katie Gilbert**

<sup>25</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. <sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." <sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

<sup>30</sup> At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" <sup>31</sup> "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" <sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

**Pastoral Prayer and Our Lord's Prayer**

**Rev. Katie Gilbert**

**Our Father-Mother 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, for ever. Amen.**

**Anthem—Come As You Are (Crowder)**

**The Loft Band**

Come out of sadness  
From wherever you've been  
Come broken hearted  
Let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy  
Oh, sinner come kneel  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal

So lay down your burdens  
Lay down your shame  
All who are broken  
Lift up your face  
Oh, wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt  
Lay down your heart  
Come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless  
And all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table  
Come taste the grace  
There's rest for the weary  
Rest that endures  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't cure

So lay down your burdens  
Lay down your shame  
All who are broken  
Lift up your face  
Oh, wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
Lay down your hurt lay down your heart  
Come as you are  
Come as you are  
Fall in his arms  
Come as you are  
There's joy for the mourning  
Oh, sinner be still  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal

So lay down your burdens  
Lay down your shame

All who are broken  
Lift up your face  
Oh, wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt  
Lay down your heart  
Come as you are  
Come as you are  
Come as you are  
Come as you are

**Call for Offering**

**Katherine Mullen**

**Offertory—Risen Today**

**Dan Forrest**

**Sermon—Bearing Witness to Vulnerability**

**Ashley Hess**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**Rev. Katie Gilbert**

**As a gathered community of disciples,  
we affirm our commitment to the way of Jesus  
who is the Liberator of the oppressed,  
the Bread of Heaven,  
God enfleshed.**

**With faith, we aim to live as Christ,  
seeking to create a world where all are fully seen.  
We believe in God's promise to uplift the lowly  
and bring the powerful down from their thrones.  
We believe the resurrecting power of Christ  
cannot be overcome by evil,  
but persists in all collective efforts  
to make life flourish in the midst of destruction,  
to birth beauty in places of death,  
and to tend gently to the aches of this world.  
We profess the transforming power of love.  
In the company of the saints who go before us,  
we journey together by grace,  
seeking to unlearn all that obstructs authentic relationship,  
Listening for the guidance of Sacred Wisdom,  
And praying earnestly for the day  
The Kingdom of God is born anew.  
Until it is so, we live in hope,  
for God is with us.**

*— adapted from Rev. M Jade Kaiser, enfleshed*

**Closing Hymn—Because You Live, O Christ (VRUECHTEN) Text: Shirley Erena Murray**

Because You live, O Christ,  
The garden of the world has come to flower;  
The darkness of the tomb  
Is flooded with Your resurrection power.

*Refrain*

The stone has rolled away  
And death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter day,  
For Jesus Christ has risen,  
Has risen, has risen, has risen!

Because You live, O Christ,  
The spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;  
Our cages of despair  
No longer keep us closed and life denying.

*Refrain*

The stone has rolled away  
And death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter day,  
For Jesus Christ has risen,  
Has risen, has risen, has risen!

Because You live, O Christ,  
The rainbow of Your peace will span creation,  
The colors of Your love  
Will draw all humankind to adoration.

*Refrain*

The stone has rolled away  
And death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter day,  
For Jesus Christ has risen,  
Has risen, has risen, has risen!

**Benediction**

**Rev. Katie Gilbert**

**Postlude— Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands**

**J. S. Bach**



## **First Church Ministry Team**

Interim Pastor: Clauzell Williams

Pastor: Jonathan Goss

Executive Pastor: Katie Gilbert

Minister of Community Engagement: Katherine Mullen

Minister to Families and Youth: Ashley Hess

Nursery Coordinator: Natalie Bogart-Pierre

Organist: Richard Byrd

Minister of Music: Patrick Evans

Design: Blake Hobbs

Office Administrator: Peg Thompson

Business Administrator: Steve Pitts

Maintenance Supervisor: Coty Smith

Wedding Director: Betsy Pate

Executive Director of Birmingham Early Learning Center: Cassandra Copeland