

Midway Hills  
Christian Church



*April*

14

**RELEASED**

Nehemiah 9: 9-15

Psalms 121

John 20:19-23

April 14, 2024

11 A.M. Worship Service

**Gathering Meditation**

In many recovery programs, the first step is admitting powerlessness over anything that threatens to destroy our connection to our Higher Power, to ourselves, and to others. This week, we consider the variety of ways addiction occurs in our lives. We will celebrate the Good News that we can refocus our lives onto things that lead us to life and connection to the Holy.

# Order of Worship

## Third Sunday of Easter

### Chiming the Hour

Let us take a quiet moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

### Welcome

Rev. Laurie Anderson

## The Community Gathers

### Prelude

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

arr. John Purifoy

### \*Call to Worship [in unison]

Rev. Jan Sullivan

**Rise up in us and we will rise  
From death into a newfound life:  
From bondage freed, from harm released,  
From illness healed, as one in peace.  
When all is lost our hearts are warmed,  
Our hope restored, our lives transformed.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### \*Hymn 86

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

### Dismissal for Children's Church

Children ages five through fifth grade may leave with the adult leaders for Children's Worship. They are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

## The Community Responds

### Collective Story of the Resurrection

John 20:19-23

Rev. Laurie Anderson  
Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

### Prayers of the People

Rev. Laurie Anderson

### The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom 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 in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Call to Giving

Kathy Leslie

## The Community Proclaims God's Word

### Scripture Reading

Psalm 121

Rev. Jan Sullivan

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor

sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep you going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. (NRSVUE)

A las montañas levanto mis ojos; ¿de dónde ha de venir mi ayuda? Mi ayuda proviene del Señor, que hizo el cielo y la tierra. No permitirá que tu pie resbale; jamás duerme el que te cuida. Jamás duerme ni se adormece el que cuida de Israel. El Señor es quien te cuida; el Señor es tu sombra a tu mano derecha. 6 De día el sol no te hará daño ni la luna de noche. El Señor te cuidará; de todo mal guardará tu vida. El Señor cuidará tu salida y tu entrada, desde ahora y para siempre. (NVI)

**Anthem** *We Are One with You, O Lord* Jay Althouse

**Sermon** "Released" Rev. Laurie Anderson  
Nehemiah 9:9-15

Resurrection Story: Hannah Ciccone

## **The Community Is Empowered at the Table**

**Invitation to the Table** Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

**Institution of the Table** Rev. Laurie Anderson

**Communion Prayer** Rev. Jan Sullivan

**Communion Hymn 393** *One Bread, One Body* ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

### **Communion**

Please hold the "bread" until prompted by the minister. We will eat in unison.

Please hold the "cup" until prompted by the minister. We will drink in unison.

**Passing of the Peace** Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

## **The Community is Sent to Restore God's World**

**\*Hymn 543** *Blessed Assurance* ASSURANCE

**\*Benediction** Rev. Laurie Anderson

**\*Benediction Hymn** *Song of Going Forth*  
(To the tune of "I Love To Tell the Story")

The Savior of our stories has brought his peace to you;  
now go and tell the story, for others need it too.

To ev'ry one who's hurting ring out the gospel call;  
proclaim that Christ is risen and grants his peace to all.

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

\*Please rise in either body or spirit.

Prelude: *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, arr. John Purifoy. ©2002 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Anthem: *We Are One with You, O Lord*, by Jay Althouse. ©2010 Hope Publishing Co.

Postlude: *The Solid Rock*, arr. Anna Laura Page. ©2012 Birnamwood Publications.

## INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet with the ministers after the service in the gathering area, or contact the church office any time.

## CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

"Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus Christ, we welcome you into this expression of God's universal church. We meet you with love, we commit ourselves to your care, and we celebrate your presence in our congregation. Through the power of God's spirit, let us together do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, who strengthens us to serve one another."

## VISION STATEMENT

Midway Hills Christian Church seeks to be inclusive, do justice and embrace diversity. We are an **Open and Affirming** congregation, unified in our love for Jesus Christ and his teachings. We understand biblical shalom as a call to act for justice and to respect God's creation. We cherish the gift of life and support each other in our spiritual journey. Grounded in worship, Bible study, and prayer, we seek to be instruments of God's healing through efforts to eliminate poverty, injustice, hunger, and social issues that afflict our community locally and globally. We seek to transform our world as we build bridges across all barriers that divide God's people.

## MIDWAY HILLS STAFF

Rev. Laurie Anderson  
Senior Minister

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes  
Minister of Church Life

Kathy Corporon  
Coordinator of  
Children's Programs

Jeff Crouse  
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons  
Administrative Assistant

TECH CREW  
DC Ciccone, John Leslie  
James Lackey

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE  
Emily Adams  
Kate Lynch

APRIL ELDERS  
Amanda Hendrickson  
Jan Sullivan  
(Frank Martin, Elders Chair)

APRIL DEACONS  
Leisha Celiz, Rob Hendrickson  
John Nation  
(John Nation, Deacons Chair)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter for details and more.)

## **MHCC Board meets today after worship in community hall.**

All church members are welcome to attend.

## **Next Christian Adult Fellowship (CAF) is April 24.**

Join us for lunch and fellowship at noon in community hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of most months.

## **Area Assembly is May 5.**

The North Texas Area CCSW Assembly will happen on Sunday, May 5, at 3 PM at Creekwood Christian Church, Flower Mound, Texas (2660 Forest Vista Drive). The opening session will include a business meeting (approximately 30 minutes) with a vote on Revisions to the NTA Bylaws. That will be followed by an exciting worship service with music by Area congregations and preaching from Rev. Dr. Michael Miller, Executive Vice President and Dean at Brite Divinity School.

## **Interpretación en español proporcionada por el Colectivo Comal.**

Si desea usar la interpretación simultánea, consulte al equipo de la mesa de sonido. O use este enlace para unirse al grupo de Whatsapp para escuchar. Por favor, silénciate.  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JRxSth4JgjX0shCBm3gGo2>

## **Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings.**

April 14 – Board Meeting, 12:00 p.m.

April 17 – Staff Meeting, 12:00 p.m.

April 18 – Men's Lunch Group, 1:00 p.m.

Every Thursday – All Church Prayer, 8:30 a.m. *Open to all MHCC members. Our emphasis is prayers for MHCC, local, state, national and global issues.*

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# JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

## **Please pray for these in our church family:**

Val Cunningham, Emily Adams, Tinker Miller

## **Please pray for our extended church family concerns:**

Megan Mercer's father, Richard Richarson, her mother, Sue, and her siblings; Megan Mercer's friends the Walters family; Jim Gilmore's daughter, Annette Melton; Christy Horn's mother, Nancy Glover; Christy Horn's mother-in-law; Christy Horn's father-in-law, David Horn; Christy Horn's family friend, Lydia Bailey; Jeryl Crawford's family member Tony Olexa; David Hammons' wife, Joan; asylum guests past and present

## **Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:**

Cathy Parker

Jeryl Crawford

Jayne & Chris Sparrer

Peggy Dowdey

Fletcher and Cameron Horn

Frank & Millie Martin

Chris Holland

## **Sympathy:**



## **Let's celebrate with joy:**

- The work of Annunciation House in El Paso
- Deacons and Elders serving at MHCC
- Hosting asylum seekers at MHCC
- Our guests/visitors in worship

## **Please pray for our city and state:**

- Repeal of SB4
- Steps that erode our civil rights and safety
- Food scarcity

## **Please pray for our nation and world:**

- Peace for Israel and Palestine – cease fire
- Aid to be received in Gaza.
- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine.
- All who are suffering from climate disasters worldwide.
- End to gun violence, and those impacted by it.
- Anti LGBTQ legislation
- All who struggle with mental health.

# CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 14, 2024

## **Sunday**

**April 14**

9:30 a.m. Choir practice  
11:00 a.m. Children's Church  
12:00 p.m. Board Meeting, community hall  
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

## **Tuesday**

**April 16**

9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens  
7:30 p.m. Primary Purpose Group & PPG-AAFG, community hall, room 1

## **Wednesday**

**April 17**

10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study (until 11:30) conference room  
12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, conference room

## **Thursday**

**April 18**

8:30 a.m. All Church Prayer  
1:00 p.m. Men's Lunch Group, Garden Tea Room, 5330 Forest Lane, Dallas  
7:30 p.m. Primary Purpose Group & PPG-AAFG, community hall, room 1

## **Friday**

**April 19**

9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 1:00) community hall

## **Sunday**

**April 21**

9:30 a.m. Choir practice  
11:00 a.m. Children's Church  
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

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