



*The People of God in Worship
April 15, 2018
Eleven O'Clock in the Morning*

THE GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

To our Guests, Members, and Friends: In the pew rack you will find a small brochure to give us the opportunity to get to know you and serve you better. Fill in where appropriate, and place it in the collection plate. Welcome and thank you!

THE CHIMES

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.

THE PRELUDE

Please consider the prelude as an invitation to quietly, reverently prepare yourself for worship.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mrs. Nancy Sale

Leader: Know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for God's own self;

People: When I call on the Lord, the Lord hears.

Leader: When we are disturbed, we will not sin; we will ponder it on our beds, and be silent;

People: We will offer our sacrifices, and put our trust in the Lord.

Leader: There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"

People: You have put gladness in our hearts, more than when grain and wine abound.

All: We will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make us lie down in safety.

(taken from Psalm 4)

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you!

Reply: And also with you!

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 93**

God, Our Father, We Adore Thee

***INVOCATION AND THE GLORIA PATRI**

Mrs. Nancy Sale and The Community

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (The Valley of Dry Bones)

Mrs. Nancy Sale

Leader: A word for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-7 (Children of God)

Mrs. Nancy Sale

Leader: A word for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE ANTHEM

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Larry Shackley

THE MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

*Our Father, 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 and ever. Amen.*

***THE OFFERTORY HYMN No. 349**

O How He Loves You and Me

THE GIFTS

*Offertory Moment and Prayer

Mrs. Nancy Sale

Offertory

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

arr. Hal Hopson

*Doxology - No. 815

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

THE THIRD READING

Luke 24:36b-48

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

(Proof of Resurrection to Disciples)

Leader: A word for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE

"Possible"

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

IMPOSSIBLE, FOR A PLAIN YELLOW PUMPKIN TO BECOME A GOLDEN CARRIAGE,
IMPOSSIBLE, FOR A PLAIN COUNTRY BUMPKIN AND A PRINCE TO JOIN IN MARRIAGE,
AND FOUR WHITE MICE WILL NEVER BE FOUR WHITE HORSES.
SUCH FOL-DE-ROL AND FIDDLE-DEE-DEE OF COURSE IS
IMPOSSIBLE.

**BUT THE WORLD IS FULL OF ZANIES AND FOOLS,
WHO DON'T BELIEVE IN SENSIBLE RULES,
AND WON'T BELIEVE WHAT SENSIBLE PEOPLE SAY,
AND BECAUSE THESE DAFT AND DEWY-EYED DOPES KEEP BUILDING UP IMPOSSIBLE HOPES,
IMPOSSIBLE, THINGS ARE HAPPENING EVERY DAY.**

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself at this time. If you prefer not to present yourself, you may speak to the minister after the service to effect membership. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a profession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to renew their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

*HYMN No. 746

He Keeps Me Singing

*CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

*THE BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearsse

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

Hallelujah!

Handel

*THE POSTLUDE

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- * The ushers will seat those waiting.
 - * Those who are able will please stand.
 - * Hearing aids are available from the ushers.

Copies of the prayer list are in the narthex.

Offertory Emphasis

Jesus blessed those to whom he said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Hermelinda and Jorge Damasceno are ministers to Portuguese-speaking people who are strangers or newcomers to England. They partner with the Baptist Union of Great Britain and International Ministries of American Baptist Churches. Their work involves visiting migrants and working with local churches to welcome and provide services so that these strangers may grow in their understanding of God's love and care. Let us especially remember Hermelinda, as she celebrates her birthday this week.

Please join me in prayer.

We uphold the Damascenos in their ministry in England, as well as dozens of other global servants whose ministry we share through our partnership with American Baptist Churches in the USA. Help us to respond to the plight of strangers in need who are also in our own community. Amen.