

April 14, 2024 Worship Guide

Camping Sunday

Co-Pastors: Rev. Ron Harris and Rev. Karla Sheffy

Worship Musicians: Sue Woods, Cheryl Doty & Abby Worley

Music Helpers: Sophie Smith and Layla Harter



Gathering Up Music

Welcome - Welcoming - Leah Chanley

Welcome to our KVOE listeners and to those watching online.

My name is Leah Chanley and this morning I am your worship reader.

Welcome to Emporia First United Methodist Church. We are all beloved children of God. Together, we are a Christian community committed to accepting, valuing, and loving all. We seek to live, grow, and serve as Jesus taught us: loving one another, transforming lives, and making disciples. Let us now worship.

Prelude and Lighting the Candles - **Acolytes:** Madison Conley and Leah LaSota

Threshold Moment-Rev. Karla Sheffy

In 12-step 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.

[theme music is sung]

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!

Resurrection Reading (based on Luke 24:13-32)

Leader: *Rev. Karla Sheffy*

Reader: *Grayson Legako*

Leader: *They trembled in fear behind locked doors as the sun set on that first Easter...*

Reader: *We often do not perceive the most transformative possibilities of our lives because we are afraid – of change, of loss, afraid even of healing.*

Leader: *Jesus broke through the barrier of their hiding place and stood among them...*

Reader: *Even when we long for our burdens to be lifted, we become so accustomed to carrying them we cannot imagine being released from them.*

Leader: *Jesus greeted them with the words: “Peace be with you.”*

Reader: *We sometimes find it difficult to embrace peace when our lives are in upheaval, when our hearts grieve, when our world aches.*

Leader: *Knowing what they needed, Jesus extended his pierced palms and his stabbed side...*

Reader: *What evidence do we require to believe our lives can experience resurrection from a power higher than our own? What helps us trust and believe?*

Leader: *They rejoiced as they recognized their friend, their leader, their Solace and Redeemer...*

Reader: *When we search for help and hope, do we rejoice when we see the first possibility of transformation? Do we rejoice along the way to healing?*

Leader: *Again, Jesus offered his peace and said, as he was sent by God, he now sends them...*

Reader: *Even in the midst of our own turmoil, can we find the courage to go where we are sent for healing for ourselves and to go where others are in need of our witness?*

Leader: *Jesus breathed on them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit.”*

Reader: *The gift of Holy Spirit power is always with us and within us to lead and guide and sometimes cajole and awaken us to all the possibilities for renewed life.*

Leader: *Jesus assured them: Forgive the sins of anyone, and they are forgiven, retain the sins of any and they are retained.*

All: *We see in the example of Christ how to forgive others and how to release our own woundedness.*

We open ourselves to the freedom, release, and peace that comes through forgiveness.

We forgive ourselves and we forgive others.

Leader: *This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.*

All: *Thanks be to the Living Word.*

Opening Song

“Blessed Assurance”

UMH 369 (vs. 1 and 3)

The Peace—Rev. Ron Harris

You are invited to share the Peace with those around you.

Children’s Message—Cindy Kienholz

I invite the children forward as we sing our Easter Season Alleluia

“Halle, Halle”

TFWS 2026

Halle, halle, halle-luya!

Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle-luya, halle-luya!

Songs from Camp
“My Lighthouse”

Words from Camp Chippewa -

Faith from Camp Chippewa, Taylen Koch, Abby Conley, and Marley Harter

Songs from Camp
“Big House”

Words from Camp Chippewa -

Sadie Chanley, Madison Conley, and Layla Harter

Songs from Camp
“Reckless Love”

A Story of Freedom

Scripture Reader - Ezra Beatty

Psalm 121

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.
God will not let your foot be moved;
God who keeps you will not slumber.
God 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;
God will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Sermon

“Resurrection Story: Released”

Rev. Ron Harris

Camp Song

“Hippopotamus Song”

**In the beginning God made the seas and the forest filled with trees.
He made the mountains up so high and at the top He placed the skies.
His fingerprints are everywhere just to show how much He cares.
And in the middle He had lots of fun! He made a hippo that weighs a ton.**

**Hip, hip, hip, hippopotamus. Hip, hip hooray God made all of us.
Hip, hip, hip, hippopotamus. Hip, hip hooray God made all of us.**

Offering—Rev. Karla Sheffy

Doxology

“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.*

UMH 156

*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.*

Offertory Prayer—Rev. Karla Sheffy

Closing Hymn

“Pass It On”

UMH 572

Announcements—Rev. Karla Sheffy

Blessing for the Journey—Rev. Karla Sheffy

And now, may you go into the world,
unlocking freedom in all the ways you discover you can,
for yourself, for others, for the world.

And may the God who created you to be free,
the Christ who showed you what freedom looks like,
and the Spirit who is transforming your life even now,
be with you now and evermore.

Amen.

*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!*

Postlude