



Bellflower UMC

April 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

## GREETINGS

*There will be several moments today during which you may testify to God's presence in your life. If the Holy Spirit urges you to share your testimony, please be faithful to that call.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## OPENING PRAYER

## PRELUDE<sup>1</sup> & CANDLES

**Here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.**

**Here I am to say that You're my God.**

**You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy**

**Altogether wonderful to me (2x)**

## CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>2</sup> From Psalm 116

One: Come! Lift your voices to the Lord who always  
hears us.

**Many: Listen, Lord. Hear our voices sing your praises.**

One: Call on the Lord who bends low to hear us.

**Many: Listen, Lord. We lift our voices to you in praise.**

One: Call on the name of the Lord, all people.

**Many: Listen, Lord. We call on your wonderful name.**

**For you saved us, you raised us and turned our lives  
around. Let your name be praised in this  
congregation.**

## FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

## HYMN

617. I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord

139. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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<sup>1</sup> Tim Hughes; © Copyright 2001 Thankyou Music

<sup>2</sup> Written by Kwasi I. Kena, in The Africana Worship Book Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 61.

# PSALM

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### INTERCESSORY PRAYERS<sup>3</sup>

The psalmist says, "I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplication." Using a few words or a phrase, how has God heard your voice and supplication?

*(after each testimony)* **Gracious is the Lord,  
and righteous; our God is merciful.**

Leader: The psalmist also says, "Because [God] inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live." Using a few words or a phrase, in what areas of your life do you need to call on God's help today?

*(after each testimony)* **Gracious is the Lord,  
and righteous; our God is merciful.**

Merciful God, even as we remember how you have heard us in the past, we come to you again in our need, carrying burdens too large to bear. And yet, even in our need, we praise you. We praise you because we remember all you have done in the past and know that you will continue to love us and our community into flourishing. As we lay our burdens at your feet, transform the outpouring of our praise into love for all of our neighbors, so that we may grow more like you every day. **Amen.**

### RESPONSE

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

**Incline Thine ear to us,**

**and grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

### EPISTLE LESSON

1 Peter 1:17-23

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Psalm 116 NRSVUE by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2022.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:13-35

SERMON

OFFERING & PEACE

DOXOLOGY - #95 

HYMN  #2268. As We Gather At Your Table

HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN 

2153. I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

SENDING FORTH

Go! Tell!

Tell one or two people what God has done for you.

Tell a group who you are and who you were.

Tell the world stories of Jesus, our Lord and Messiah!

Go! Tell!


The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you

and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you

and give you peace.

POSTLUDE & CANDLES 

Go Now In Peace

Bellflower UMC spreads God's love within our church family and throughout our communities and world using our prayers, our gifts and our service; thus to become a shelter of love and a community of compassion..

To learn more, visit [facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC](https://facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC)

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (309-722-1500, [rob@methodist.cc](mailto:rob@methodist.cc)).