



GROSSE POINTE
MEMORIAL CHURCH
'A light by the lakeshore'

Service of Worship
Holy Humor Sunday
April 12, 2026 | 9 & 11 am

Order of Service for the Worship of God

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Please rise in body or in spirit.
Please remember to silence electronic devices.*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – Intermezzo from *Pièces de Fantaisie, Op. 51*

Louis Vierne

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Joy is never still;

All: **In the wiggles of the children, in the whispers of youth, in the smiles of adults.**

One: We praise God for this glorious day.

All: **Let our praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.**

One: May joy and praise fill our hearts and our songs.

All: **Let our laughter be deep, for we are God's people.**

*HYMN 244 – This Joyful Eastertide
(see bulletin pages 8 – 9)

Tune: *Vruechten*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our prayer of confession is followed by a time for silent confession.

All: **You know better than we do, amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we must be serious all the time; we miss out on the**

joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to despair as our friend, we ignore Jesus who can bring us home to your heart. Forgive us, God of joy, and make us open to the startling, and upside-down ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter laughter and your healing joy. May your love be poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Amen. Christ is raised from the dead! Love wins! Our sin is gone! What could be more joyous than that good news? Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

Tune: Hymn to Joy

All: Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Savior who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia to the triune Majesty!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: We have joy and peace in believing through Jesus Christ. And it's a joy to share such peace. The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy God, open our ears, our hearts, and our funny bones to your Word today. Remind us that in Christ, you played the best joke on Death, and that we are the beneficiaries of your divine, joyful punchline. Let your light brighten our gloom, and your laughter fill our silence. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Psalm 100

(O.T. page 522)

After each reading:

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SONG 591 – Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! (9 AM)

Tune: Halle, Halle

All: **Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

CHILDREN'S TIME (9 AM)

After the children's sermon, children ages 4 – Grade 4 who are participating in Sunday School, will be taken to the 3rd floor: PreK– Grade 2 to room 301; Grades 3 – 4 to room 307. Children can be picked up at 10:15 from their respective rooms.

ANTHEM – How Firm a Foundation

Arr. John Rutter

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed, For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design. Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.*

*The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavors to shake, I'll never, no never, no, never forsake.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING – 1 Corinthians 3:18 – 23

(N.T. page 157)

SERMON – Fools Everywhere!

Rev. Heather Thum – Gerber

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM AND OFFERING – Serve the Lord with Gladness

Geroge Friederik Handel

Serve the Lord with gladness

And come before His presence with a song

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING 609

Tune: Lasst Uns Erfruen

All: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

TAKING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN 821 – My Life Flows On
(see bulletin page 10)

Tune: How Can I Keep from

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – Dance on *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

Arr. Dr. Logan Hamilton

This Morning's Music: Sees to Christ's victory over death, that gives humanity its courage to keep celebrating with joy! The anthem is a hymn-based arrangement on the Americana tune *Foundation*. This arrangement by English choral composer, John Rutter (b. 1945) takes the jaunty nature of the tune, and varies its character from verse to verse, mainly showcasing intimate choral writing with minimal accompaniment from the organ. For the last verse however, Rutter allows the organ and choir to build up in a full declaration of faith that bursts fourth in joy. The offering "Serve the Lord with Gladness" is a choral ensemble movement from George Handel's (1685-1759) cantata "O be Joyful in the Lord" that strikes up the choir in cheerful celebration. Handel arranges the choir with swift contrapuntal lines with various voices chasing after each other in glee. The melismatic lines that Handel writes sounds as if the choir is giving a hearty laugh on the word "gladness."

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WELCOME TO GPMC

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and one of its vibrant congregations. For 161 years, we have been a light by the lakeshore for Jesus Christ, through our worship, education, outreach, and community life. We give thanks to God that you joined us today and we pray you will receive a sense of God's loving Spirit from your time with us. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Our Mission and Vision Statement: Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever, we are called and committed to living out our love for God. Through worship, study and service, we strive to continue God's transforming work by worshiping God joyfully, welcoming others graciously, supporting one another lovingly, and faithfully responding to our community and world with compassion.

Inclusion Statement: As a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA), GPMC is an inclusive community of faith, welcoming people of all races, gender identities, and sexual orientation, believing that God gifts and calls everyone into beloved service and community with God and others.

Leading and Assisting in Worship: Jesus Christ, back from his resurrection! Rev. Heather Thum - Gerber, Carol Marks, liturgists; Allie Carver (9 am), Marge Cambalik (11 am), lay readers; Sanctuary Choir; Dr. Logan Hamilton, Minister of Music and Organist.

Holy Humor Sunday – often held on the Sunday after Easter (Bright Sunday) – is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection as God's "supreme joke" on death. It revives an ancient tradition of "days of joy and laughter" in the early church, allowing congregations to celebrate through humor, pranks, and joyful worship. Happy Holy Humor Sunday to you all!

The Birth Rose is for Madison Catherine Symington, born on March 28, 2026 to Blair and Brendan Symington. Lynne and Jim Colson are Madison's grandparents.

The lilies in the Sanctuary are dedicated by Scott Cauvel, in loving honor of his wife, Jennifer, on their 33rd wedding anniversary this week.

Flowers in the Sanctuary are funded by our members in memory or in honor of a loved one. If interested in dedicating flowers, please call or email Frances LaPlante-Sosnowsky at 313.434.5574 or ab7014@wayne.edu

Giving at GPMC: Please visit bit.ly/GPMC-Giving, text "GPMC" to 73256, or scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin. Offering envelopes are also found in the pews. Thank you for helping us be *a light by the lakeshore*.

Hearing assistance system in the Sanctuary: These devices, pieces and lanyards are on the credenza towards the front of the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please see one of the ushers.

Infant and toddler room: Is available in room 112 during the service should you prefer to leave your child with our wonderful caregivers.

Worship kits: Are in blue bags located at each of the sanctuary entrances for children to use during worship.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY AT GPMC?

9:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School	Third Floor
10:10 am	Makers Second Sunday	Library
10:15 am	Children's Choir	Room 320
11:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
1:00 pm	Girl Scouts	Room 310
3:00 pm	Wei Yu & Keun-A Lee Concert	Sanctuary

This Joyful Eastertide

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
 2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
 3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
 slum - ber till trump from east to west shall
 riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

Refrain

sprung to life this mor - row.
 wake the dead in num - ber. Had Christ, who once was
 pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in

vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en.

My Life Flows On

How Can I Keep from Singing?

1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Praying for one another is an important and loving gift. The staff of GPMC meets every Tuesday morning and offers prayers for members of the congregation. If you would like to add a person to our prayers or on the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin, please call Carol Marks at 313.882.5330 ex. 127 or email her at cmarks@gpmchurch.org. May God continue to surround you with love and care.

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Recent Prayer Requests for: John Boris, John Ceccato (Karen Pratt's cousin), Phyllis May, Melanie Mosher (Elizabeth Tengler's friend).

Continued Prayers for: Robert Cacchione (Gina Carrier's dad), Jane Dow, Chris and Ted Fines (the Kuraps' friends), Aaron Hall (friend of Christina Robinson), Kay Harris (Jodi Steven's mother), Bruce Hubbell (Susan Griffin's friend), Perry Kent (Phyllis May's son), Stephanie Kornblum (Sue Vititoe's daughter), Carol Martin (Cheryl Littleton's mother), Mary Matvias (Elizabeth Tengler's aunt), Amy Miller, Millie Neal (Doris Neal Van Tiem's mother), Rose Palazzolo (Frank Palazzolo's mother), Sharon Rees, Ted Schaefer (Elizabeth and Stephen Schaefer's son), Beth Schlater (Sally Van Dusen's friend), Sue Stanley, Charlie Stephens, Salvador Zuniga (Janice Zuniga's son).

Protection and Strength for Our Loved Ones in the Military: Ensign Peter A. Costello, USN (Gretchen and Bill Costello's son), Alec Doyal, Special Forces, U.S. Air Force (Marilyn and Guy Doyal's grandson), 1st Lieutenant Isabel Carlyon (Linda Lloyd's niece), Christian Mageau, Senior Airman USAF (Cynthia and Michael Mageau's son), Steven Hess, Army Combat Medic, FL (Roma and Tom Hess' grandson), Douglas Clark Ross, Senior Airman Avionics Technician, U.S. Airforce, Capt. Florencio J. Yuzon, V, U.S. Navy (Val and Pat Moran's son-in-law), 1LT Florencio C. Yuzon, VI, U.S. Army (Val and Pat Moran's grandson).

This Week at GPMC

Monday, April 13

Preacher's Workshop, 10 - 11 am (2nd Floor Lounge)
Council, Deacons, & Trustees Meetings, 6:30 & 7 pm (Various Locations)
Boy Scouts, 7 - 8 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, April 14

Women's Bible Study, 7 - 8 am (Room 215)
Yoga, 10 - 11 am (Room 322) & 6 - 7 pm (Fellowship Hall)
Al-Anon, 6:30 - 8 pm (Library)
AA, 7 - 8 pm (Room 209)
Novel as Theology, 7:30 - 9 pm (Offsite)

Wednesday, April 15

Men's Bible Study, 7 - 8 am (2nd Floor Lounge)
AA, 8:30 - 9:30 am (Room 209)
Stephen Minister's Meeting, 9:15 - 10:30 am (2nd Floor Lounge)
Memorial Youth, 6 - 8 pm (Third Floor)
Adult Bible Study, 7:30 - 9 pm (Library)

Thursday, April 16

Yoga, 10 - 11 am (Room 322)
Makers@Memorial, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm & 6:30 - 8:30 pm (Room 220)
Knitting, 6 - 8 pm (Library)
Handbell Rehearsal, 6:15 - 7 pm (Room 326)
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 - 9:15 pm (Choir Room)

Friday, April 17

Unpack the Truck, 8:30 - 10:30 am (Offsite)
Free Food Fridays, 9 - 11 am (Offsite)
AA, 7 - 8 pm (Room 209)

Saturday, April 18

Men's Bible Study, 8 - 9 am (Offsite)
Mourner's Path Group, 10 - 11:30 am (Second Floor Lounge)

Sunday, April 19

Worship Services, *9 & 11 am (Sancturay & *Livestream)
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 - 10:15 am (Third Floor)
Children's Choir, 10:15 - 10:35 am (Room 320)