



April 18, 2021  
3rd Sunday of Easter  
9:30 a.m.

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Gathering those who fear they are not enough,  
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.

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## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

*The Church exists to set up in the world a new sign which is radically dissimilar to the world's own manner and contradicts it in a way that is full of promise.*

— Karl Barth

## ***We Gather to Praise God***

### PRELUDE AND RINGING OF THE BELL


*Day by Day*

arr. Craig Courtney (contemporary)

### WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

\* HYMN 233 (vv. 1 and 3)

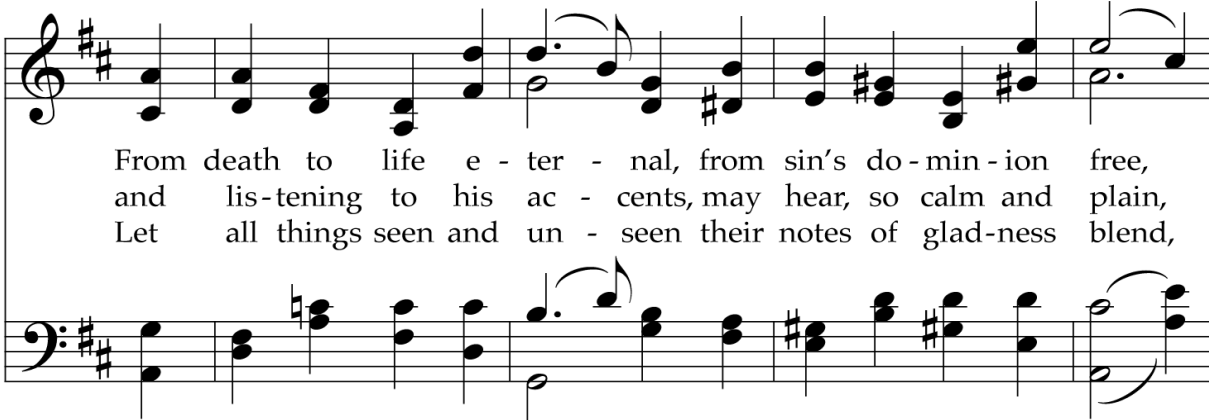
*The Day of Resurrection!*



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,  
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
 and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

TEXT: John of Damascus, 8th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1862, alt.  
 MUSIC: Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835

LANCASHIRE  
 7.6.7.6.D  
 (this tune in a lower key, 269)

\* *Please stand in body or spirit*

## DRAW NEAR TO GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

Holy God, by your love and grace, we are made your children.

We are now siblings of Jesus, called to live in the ways he shows us.

But we go our own way. Very often, we believe in Jesus without following him.

Loving God, forgive us. Remind us once more that we are your beloved children.

Make us aware of your love and grace that have been poured into us.

Help us remember who we truly are, so that our lives may show our true identity.

*Silence for personal reflection*

## SUNG RESPONSE

*Lord, Have Mercy upon Us*

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: J. Christopher Pardini, 2005

Music © 2011 Birnamwood Publications (a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.)

KYRIE ELEISON (Pardini)

## RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE, GRACE, AND PEACE

### \* SING GLORY TO GOD

Sing we to our God a - bove, — Al - le - lu - ia! Praise e - ter - nal  
as God's love, — Al - le - lu - ia! Praise our God ye heav'n - ly host,  
Al - le - lu - ia! Fa - ther, — Son, and  
Ho - ly Ghost. — Al - le - lu - ia!

*We Listen for God's Word*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 3:12-19

*<sup>12</sup>When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.*

*<sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out/"*

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

### MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Easter Morn*

Camil Van Hulse (1897-1988)

Greg Bloy, organ; Lisa Bloy, piano

### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 3:1-7

*<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*

*<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.*

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

### SERMON

LIVING AS GOD'S CHILDREN

James Sledge

***We Respond to God's Word***

\* **HYMN 703** (vv. 1 and 2)

*Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

1 Je - sus, thy bound - less love to me no thought can  
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul may dwell, but  
 3 O Love, how gra - cious is thy way! All fear be -

reach, no tongue de - clare; O knit my thank - ful heart to  
 thy pure love a - lone; O may thy love pos - sess me  
 fore thy pres - ence flies; care, an - guish, sor - row melt a -

thee, and reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly,  
 whole, my joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness  
 way wher - e'er thy heal - ing beams a - rise. O Je - sus,

thine a - lone, I'd live; my - self to thee en - tire - ly give.  
 from my heart re - move; may ev - ery act, word, thought be love.  
 noth - ing may I see, noth - ing de - sire, or seek, but thee.

John Wesley learned the original German hymn from the Moravians during his time in Savannah, Georgia, and translated all sixteen stanzas. The tune, named for a 4th-century martyr, comes out of the Roman Catholic revival movement of the mid-19th century.

## \* RESPONSE OF FAITH

*adapted from Brian McLaren*

We believe that God the Father, Good Creator and giver of life, calls us to love all creation and care for it as respectful stewards, to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. We believe that Jesus Christ is God come to save and lead us, who teaches us to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We see Jesus in the poor, oppressed, condemned, and forgotten, and so we embrace all people with God's true compassion. We believe that by the Holy Spirit, God unites us in the eternal dance of love, empowers us diversely to serve and love, and fills us that we may overflow with grace, truth, beauty, and life as Christ's agents in this world.

## MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Serendipity

Tim Stufft

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jenny Lansbury

ONE: Lord in your mercy,

**ALL: Hear our prayer.**

*The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder currently serving on Session (governing council) or other members of the congregation.*

### *Prayers of concern*

Bonnie Seklecki, continuing to rest and recover after a concussion

The family of Sarah Harry, friend of Jason Good, who passed away after a prolonged illness

Ashleigh Golub, hospitalized with complications of non-alcoholic cirrhosis and

COVID, and her husband Craig, dear friends of Tom Koger and Louise Phillips

Jeff Hobaugh, Jenny Lansbury's brother, following knee replacement surgery

Sabra Staley, at home recovering from a mild stroke

Educators, administrators, support staff, and students during the pandemic

Staff and residents of elder care facilities everywhere

First responders, health care providers, caregivers, essential employees, and all who continue to put their lives at risk during the pandemic

### *Continued prayers*

Kris Barth, Allan Capon, Steve Graff, Mike Hugo, Laurel Kovach, Nora Long,

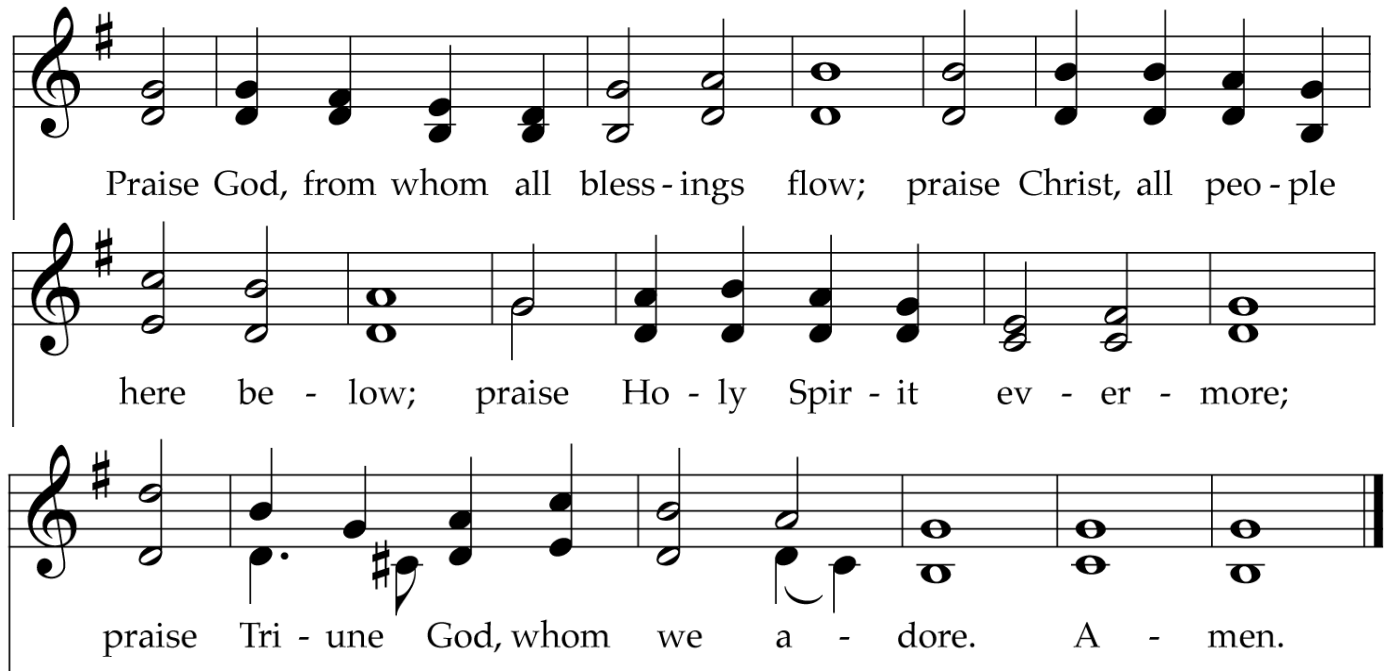
Sandy Martin, Ruth Mileham, Bob Moore, Cort Peret, James Steele, Lawson Swift,

Helen Waugh, Doris Webb, Charles Wirth

*Prayer requests can be sent to Pastor James at [prayers@fallschurchpresby.org](mailto:prayers@fallschurchpresby.org).*

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

## \* DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple  
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;  
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988  
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551  
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH  
LM

## \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

\* **HYMN 231** (vv. 1 and 3)

*Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*



1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,  
2 Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;  
3 Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-enge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.  
Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.  
all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;  
Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud-dled in an up - stairs room.  
Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been:



let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!  
He whose word in-spired cre-a - tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.  
ev - i - dence of trans-for-ma-tion in which God is known and seen.



Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means "lullaby."



**\* OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**\* CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Amazing Grace*

arr. David Cherwien (b. 1957)

*Songs reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-721003*

***Supporting us in Worship***

Worship Leader	Jenny Lansbury
Audio/Video	Diane Maloney
Music	Andrew Jonas, tenor; David Schoonover, baritone
Fellowship Time Host	Karen Growney Moore
Sanctuary Flowers	The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Kathy Chavez in loving memory of her sister Susie, her dad, and her mom, who was born in Ireland on April 18, 1915.

***A Warm Welcome***

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. We welcome all to our livestream community and hope that you will join us in song and prayer from the safety of your own homes. If you would like to learn more about our family of faith, please [visit our church website](#).

*Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”*

The Rev. James Sledge, Pastor

Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

Noah Clark, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry

The Rev. Megan Klose, Parish Associate

The Rev. Rusty Lynn, Hon. Ret., Parish Associate

David Schoonover, Acting Director of Music

Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

## This Week at FCPC

April 18-25, 2021

### Online Worship and Meetings

**Story Time** – Sunday at 8:00 a.m. [Story Time with Mrs. Burns](#)

**Worship Service** – Sunday at 9:30 a.m. [www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream](http://www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream) or [Facebook Live](#)

**Congregational Meeting** – Immediately following worship. [Zoom Meeting ID: 919 9132 3252](#)

**Fellowship Time** – Immediately following congregational meeting. [Zoom Meeting ID: 919 9132 3252](#)

**Tuesday Morning Prayer** – Tuesday at 8:45 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 104 294 101](#)

**Sarah Circle** – Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 862 3427 7510](#) Passcode: 123456

**Saturday Morning Bible Study & Fellowship Group** – Saturday at 8:00 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 972 0316 4309](#) Passcode: morning

**Story Time with Mrs. Burns.** Join Mrs. Burns in the library for some stories about springtime. Available on YouTube Sunday after 8:00 a.m. [Story Time with Mrs. Burns](#)

**Congregational Meeting, April 18.** The Session has called a congregational meeting immediately following worship for the purpose of electing one elder and four deacons. The slate of elders and deacons are: Darryle Brown (Elder), and Cameron Brown, Linda Garvelink, Tom Koger, and Lesley Riggione (Deacons). The meeting will be held on Zoom using the virtual Fellowship Time link: [Zoom Meeting ID: 919 9132 3252](#). **Please note: For your vote to be counted, each person will need to log on to Zoom on their own device.** If two people attend the meeting on the same device, the voting poll only allows for one vote to be counted. [Click here for some helpful tips](#) on how to effectively participate and vote in a Zoom meeting of the congregation.

**Join us for virtual Fellowship Time** immediately following the congregational meeting. [Zoom Meeting ID: 919 9132 3252](#). This week's host is Karen Growney Moore. Anyone is welcome to host Fellowship Time! Learn more [here](#) and sign up [here](#).

**In-person Youth Event, April 18.** Youth will gather for a time of fun and games in the front parking lot this Sunday, April 18, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. If you did not sign up in advance, please contact [Noah Clark](#) ASAP!

**New Gathering Groups begin this week.** We have a few groups meeting throughout the week to discuss some passages of the Psalms in a modern interpretation. Follow along with the gathering groups [here](#).

**Drop & Dash Food Drive, April 17 and 18,** to benefit Knox Food Pantry. [Click here to see the current needs](#) at Knox. NOTE: Knox has limited storage capacity. Please check the current needs list before bagging or boxing donations. *In addition to those items, Knox can always use paper products, personal care items, and breakfast foods such as cereal and oatmeal. And, we have learned that clients prefer long pasta like spaghetti or linguine as opposed to penne and rotini.* Wear a mask and drop off items from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the door to the lower level off FCPC's front parking lot on April 17 and 18.** Sign up to help [here](#). Thank you for your continued support of this vital ministry!

**Drop & Dash March Munificence.** Thanks to all who generously dropped off much-needed food and personal care items on March 20 and 21. Your gifts enabled us to deliver 25 containers of the items most urgently needed by our neighbors served by Falls Church Community Service, Inc., through the Knox Presbyterian Food Pantry. And thanks to Gail Warner, Allie and Jenny Growney, Ellie and Carolyn Bruce, Marsha Schuyler, Sue Armstrong, and Tom Koger for staffing this effort.

**Sarah Circle, April 20.** All women of the church are invited to join Sarah Circle for fellowship and Bible study via Zoom on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. Please contact [Kathy Chavez](#) so she can send you the meeting lesson. [Zoom Meeting ID: 862 3427 7510](#), Passcode: 123456

**Welcome Table, April 21.** Sign up to help at our next Welcome Table through [this link](#). If you would like to support Welcome Table with a financial contribution, you can mail a check (made out to FCPC with "Welcome Table" in memo line) to the church office or give through FCPC's secure [Online Giving](#) link.

**Silent Witness, April 24.** Join the Falls Church faith community in a Silent Witness Against Racial Injustice from noon to 1:00 p.m. along Broad Street. We remember the names of those killed by police violence in 2021: **Daunte Wright, Dominique Williams, James Lionel Johnson, Fantahun Girma Woldesenbet, Jose Arenas, Natzeriyt Viertel, Noah Green, Jeffrey Ely, Anthony Alvarez, Adam Toledo, Donovan W. Lynch, Eric Leach, Tony Smith Jr., Joshua James Gloria, Leonard Popa, Tyrell Wilson, Dwight Brown, Dino Raul Morales, Ryan Shirey, Juan Carter Hernandez, Jordan Walton, Anthony Steven Loia, Christopher Hagans, Andrew Hogan, Josue Drumond-Cruz, Jenoah Donald, Randy Miller, Erick Mejia, Kevin Levira Desir, Felix Santos, David Lee Tovar Jr., Christopher Austin Dockery, Christopher Anderson, Zonterius Johnson, Reginald Johnson, Patrick Warren Sr., Jason Nightengale, and Robert Howard.**

**Jubilee Project.** A jubilee is a joyful celebration. It is also described in the Hebrew bible as a time of emancipation and restoration—one year out of every fifty where people would rest, land would be restored, slaves would be freed, and debts would be canceled. This year during Lent, FCPC families used a devotional guide called "The Jubilee Project" to explore Biblical

themes of forgiveness, abundance, and grace. As part of that practice, we set aside some money each week to participate in our own Easter jubilee. Now, as a sign of God's abounding grace and forgiveness, we will extend grace and forgiveness to others by pooling that money to help cancel the medical debt of struggling individuals and families.

Millions of Americans have medical debt they can't pay—hospital bills that are astronomical, or medical charges to their credit cards that balloon over time. Almost two-thirds of all bankruptcies in the U.S. are related to medical debt issues, and millions of Americans report having to choose between paying for necessary health care or paying for other necessities, like food or heat.

This issue has special resonance in 2021 because it is one where the pandemic and structural racism collide to disastrous effect. People of color are already disproportionately impacted by medical debt and are also disproportionately impacted by COVID. We can expect to see medical debt—especially in communities of color—rise as a consequence of COVID. It is an issue at the intersection of mercy and justice.

But it also turns out that buying medical debt is a lot less expensive than paying your own medical debt—or paying for another individual's debt alone. You can buy medical debt for about a one-hundredth of its face value. The nonprofit organization [RIP Medical Debt](#) purchases consolidated medical debt from creditors at this huge discount and then forgives it. They target the medical debt of those most in need of relief, purchase the debt, and then erases it, with no taxes or penalties to the recipient.

Each dollar donated frees a person from about \$100 of debt, on average. Together with others in the Northern Virginia area, we are on track to help forgive more than a million dollars in debt. **If you'd like to participate in FCPC's gift to the Jubilee Project, donate online at [www.fallschurchpresby.org/giving](http://www.fallschurchpresby.org/giving) or mail a check to the church office noting "Jubilee" in memo line. FCPC will send its donation to the Jubilee Project on May 1.**

**Crossing Paths** is a daily email designed to be a way to stay connected to each other, our community, and God. During Lent, Crossing Paths posts are from "Pause for Lent," our Lenten devotional written by members of the FCPC community. [Take a look here](#). We will return to our regular schedule after Easter. To share a prayer, poem, or scripture passage to be included in future Crossing Paths, please email [Diane Maloney](#). Not receiving Crossing Paths? [Click on this link](#) to be added to the email list.

**God sightings.** You are invited to share a photo that captures a time or place where you have experienced God. Photos submitted by noon each Wednesday will be considered for use at the opening of our virtual worship service. Email images to [Diane Maloney](#).

**Pastoral care during social distancing.** If you or your loved one is in need of pastoral care, please do not hesitate to contact [James Sledge](#). And if you are at-risk from COVID-19, please let James or the [deacons](#) know if we can offer you support with specific tasks such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, or other things that might put you at risk.