



+ Those who are able are invited to stand.
You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

The cross was the means by which God paid the penalty for our sins. A penalty that we could not pay ourselves, but a penalty that had to be paid to restore us to fellowship with God. And for that we rightly must be thankful and grateful for what God did through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.
But the resurrection is not just the exclamation point after the cross. ... the resurrection is the guarantee that the work on the cross was acceptable to God in your place. For believers, the resurrection means hope, power and life everlasting.

Christ is Risen! Welcome to Worship!

- PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*
- ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY
- PRELUDE *Carolyn Brown*
- SERVICE OF *LIGHT* *The Acolytes*
Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."
- +CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*
It happened! Jesus was absolutely right!
Christ is risen! It was as he said it would be!

All Singing: Easter People, Raise Your Voices, UMH 304
**Easter people raise your voices,
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
Heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.**

Darkness is gone! Brightness reigns!
God's love has poured over us, bringing us joy and hope!

Choir Singing: Verse 2
Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

We are free from fear and doubt!
We are free to celebrate and dance, and shout the Good News "Christ is Risen!"

All Singing: Verse 3
**Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the power of heavenly throngs.**

+INVOCATION *Responsively*
Christ the Lord is Risen! Alleluia! Our hopes and dreams have come true. We do not have to fear death, for Christ goes before us. Praise be to God who has raised Christ from the dead and given to us new life.
**Open our hearts to receive your wondrous words of love, O God. Help prepare us for the opportunities to follow you by loving others.
In Christ's Name, we pray. Amen.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 157*
Jesus Shall Reign, vv. 1,2

THE CHURCH AFFIRMS ITS FAITH

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Revelation 1:4-8*
MODERN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Responsively*
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

We believe in God the Father; infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.
We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ and find strength and help in time of need.
We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Unison*
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, forever. Amen.

RESPONSE UMH 70
Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)
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 CHURCH SHARES ITS BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION
It started many, many years ago, when early followers shared their experience of the risen Christ with others in their circle. They in turn shared their experiences, and so on and so on, until here we are today. Now it is our turn. Let us share what Jesus’ resurrection means to us and give out of gratitude to enable the sharing to continue through this church.

OFFERTORY PRAYER Unison
Dear God, as we give this offering, we ask that your Spirit would transform it with us and all people, that your love may be revealed as we use these gifts to invite people into the story of Jesus. We do this and ask this in the name of the Risen One. Amen.

OFFERTORY Carolyn Brown

+DOXOLOGY UMH 94
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME UMH 261
Lord of the Dance, v. 5

They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that’ll never, never die; I’ll live in you if you’ll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I’ll lead you all wherever you may be, and I’ll lead you all in the dance, said he.

WIGGLETIME

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

THE WORD IN MUSIC Chancel Choir

SERMON Rev. M. Steven Meadows

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS
+HYMN OF DEDICATION UMH 154
All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name

+SERVICE OF LIGHT The Acolytes
Jesus said, “You are the Light of the world.”

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING Responsively
Because the tomb is empty, your life can be full, so go into every place and every day as people brimming with the love of God.
Be graceful in spirit, hopeful in word, faithful in deed.
Live for the risen Christ as Christ lives in you.
Alleluia and Amen!

+POSTLUDE Carolyn Brown
...and the worship continues.

