



## CELEBRATION OF RESURRECTION

+ *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

You are invited to respond with the **Boldface** responses.

### MOMENTS OF CENTERING

Early on the first day of the week, the disciples of Jesus went to the tomb where he had been buried only to find that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Friends, we gather here as Christ's disciples, on the first day of the week, to celebrate the good news of the gospel:

**Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!**

Alleluia! We praise you, O God, for the power of your saving love revealed in the resurrection of our Lord. As you have raised Jesus from the dead give to us the gift of everlasting life, that we may worship you forever, through Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.

**THANKS BE TO GOD! WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Carolyn Brown*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*  
*Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."*

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *FWS 2108*

**1. O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me! He gave his life. What more could he give? O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!**

**2. Jesus to Calv'ry did go; his love for sinners to show. What he did there brought hope from despair. O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!**

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*

God is good!

**All the time!**

And all the time!

**God is good!**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

Let all the people proclaim

"God's steadfast love endures forever!"

**God's steadfast love endures forever!**

The Lord is my strength, my song, and my salvation!

Shouts of joy resound in the tents of the righteous!

**God's steadfast love endures forever!**

The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

**We will not die but live.**

**We will proclaim what the Lord has done.**

We enter the gates of the Lord and give thanks, for this is the day the Lord has made!

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

+INVOCATION *Responsively*

Holy and Living God, like a tomb's darkness that gives way to light, open us this day to newness of life; open us to your love, to your acceptance, to your forgiveness, to your peace; open us to one another, and to the possibilities you have in store for us.

**Give us hope for the future and a passion for life here and now. We pray in the name of the One who destroyed death, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

+ HYMN OF CELEBRATION *UMH 304*

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

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### THE CHURCH AFFIRMS ITS FAITH

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *1 Peter 1:3-9*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Responsively*

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit.**

**Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.**

RESPONSE *UMH 99*

*My Tribute*

**To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things he has done. With his blood he has saved me; with his power he has raised me; to God be the glory for the things he has done.**

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### THE CHURCH SHARES ITS BLESSINGS

#### OFFERTORY INVITATION

It started thousands of years ago, when women 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 family.

OFFERTORY PRAYER *Responsively*

Compassionate and faithful God, you meet us behind locked doors and in the doubts, we dare not speak aloud. We long to see, to touch, to know—and yet, by your grace, you call us blessed for believing without seeing. Accept now these gifts we bring, signs of our faith, acts of our trust. Use them to reach others still searching for hope, healing, and connection.

Let our giving testify to your Resurrection power and shape us into a community where wounds are not hidden but held with love. In Christ, who breathes peace upon us, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Dan Martin*

+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 Children are invited to gather for Wiggletime*

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THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

WIGGLETIME...*then, it's off to Children's Church*

MUSICAL CALL TO PRAYER *Carolyn Brown*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Responsively*

Living God, hear our prayer:

**Make this world your new creation!**

Before we call, you answer, O Lord.

Before we speak, you know our words.

Living God, hear our prayer:

**Make this world your new creation!**

Let there be joy in Jerusalem; may all terrorism end immediately, and may peace prevail among all nations.

Living God, hear our prayer:

**Make this world your new creation!**

Let sounds of weeping and cries of distress turn to shouts of joy and laughter.

Living God, hear our prayer:

**Make this world your new creation!**

Let infants grow and thrive;  
let the old dance like children.

Let every person find a home.

Living God, hear our prayer.

**Make this world your new creation!**

Let the wolf and the lamb live in peace;  
let no one hurt or destroy another.

Living God, hear our prayer:

**Make this world your new creation!**

Give us pause to pray for ourselves --from those deep places within our soul and spirit where we can speak only to you in the silence of our hearts, --and to wait with you for a time.

*(A silence is kept.)*

Show us, O God, the holy mountain you have prepared, the new heaven and new earth you have promised, so that we may be glad and rejoice in your presence forever.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen.

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.**

THE WORD IN MUSIC *Chancel Choir  
Eva Atha, director*

SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

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THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

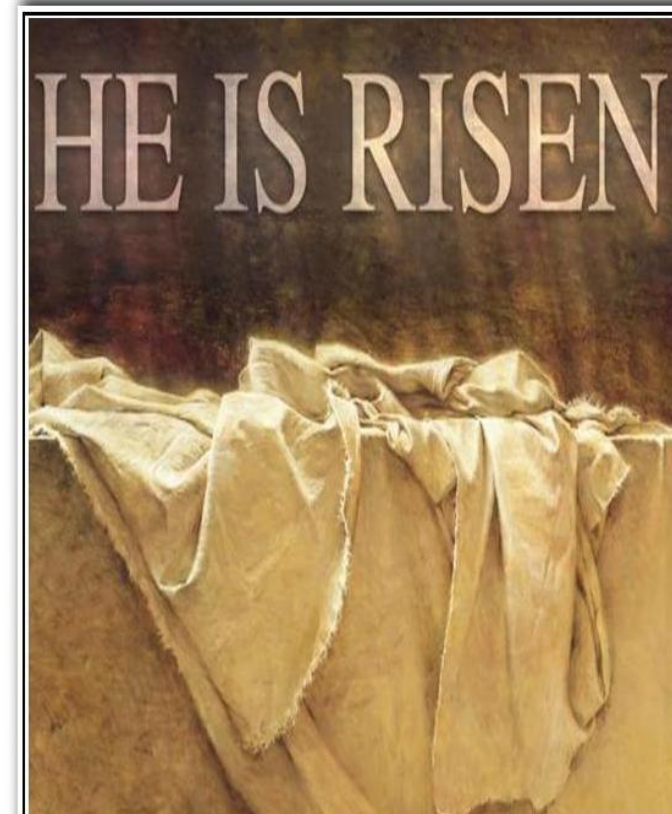
+HYMN OF DEDICATION *UMH 318  
Christ is Alive*

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*  
May God bless you with open hearts to recognize the resurrected Christ in our midst and with the courage to reach out and touch the wounds of our neighbors, believing that we will find Resurrection in the meeting of our vulnerability.

**Amen.**

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

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