



+ Those who are able are invited to stand.

UMH-United Methodist Hymnal FWS-The Faith We Sing

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

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

God of love, take hold of us in this time of worship, and do not let us go until we have been blessed by a vision of love, infinitely generous, gentle and forgiving; simple, wholesome, mysterious, profound; in which all are accepted and no one rejected; love that never ends. Living God, Lord of Love, live in our hearts now and forever...

THANKS BE TO GOD! 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."

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *UMH 176*
Majesty, Worship His Majesty

Majesty, worship his majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise. Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from his throne unto his own; his anthem raise. So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King. Majesty, worship his majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*
Easter people, we gather today as people who spent the week swamped with news reports, social media posts, and reels that drowned us with information, worry, and stress.

Like the disciples, we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious, wondering who we can believe.

We gather as people who long for peace, for God to break through and bring us clarity and hope once again. **Like the disciples, we don't always recognize the Risen One who comes alongside us, showing us the way where there seems to be no way.**

We gather as people hoping to capture again the glow of Resurrection, ready for our hearts to be strangely warmed with the truth of the resurrected Christ.

Like the disciples, we open our hearts to the possibility that God's Resurrection life is closer than we think.

Easter people, God knows the burdens we carry, and God is faithful to meet us where we are with good news. **May the good news of the Resurrection renew and refresh us today as we come to worship God!**

+INVOCATION *Responsively*
O risen Christ, you were the disciples' companion. Be at our side on the journey of faith and at every encounter, engender our compassion, so that we may welcome others and listen to their stories. Kindle anew the desire to proclaim your Word.

May it illumine us, and may our hearts burn to bear witness to it. May your Holy Spirit teach us the art of explaining scripture and open our hearts to recognize you. Grant us the courage to become vulnerable so that our siblings may know you through us and that we may know you through them. Amen.

+ HYMN OF CELEBRATION *UMH 98*
To God Be the Glory

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

THE PSALTER *Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Responsively*
Resurrection Lord, our Companion on the journey, we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance. We relish the joy within our hearts when you are with us. Yet sometimes we would cling to you, treasures the blessings of relationship with you, and not share your love with others.

Forgive us, Dear One. Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world. Press us to share the hope and joy of your love, so that someone who hungers for spiritual food may be filled by our witness to your grace. Shine the light of your Spirit through us, so that we may show your Way to those who long for peace and help to revive those in whom hope has died.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *Responsively*
Even in the darkest valley, though death's shadow may threaten us, we need not fear, for the Lord is with us. God will comfort and shelter us. No harm will come to us. No one can snatch us out of the Lord's hand. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. **Amen.**

RESPONSE *Freely, Freely, v. 1 UMH 389*
God forgave my sin in Jesus name, I've been born again in Jesus' name, and in Jesus' name I come to you, to share his love as he told me to. He said, "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give. Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live."

THE CHURCH SHARES

OFFERTORY INVITATION & PRAYER

April Loose Change Offering Recipient: Project Graduation

+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 wiggletime

The Church Listens for the Word

WIGGLETIME

...and then, Children's Church

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

UMH 472

Near to the Heart of God, v. 2

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God; a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Responsively

In this season of Easter rejoicing, let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings saying, O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the goodness of the earth, that it may flourish with flowing waters, verdant pastures, and paths that lead us to protect and care for your creation. O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the peace and welfare of the world, that all our tables of work and worship promote the understanding and dignity that transform enemies into friends. O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For all who suffer with sickness, need, or danger, that all our afflictions and fears are met with healing and the comforting presence of your voice. O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the blessings we receive and share, that we may live a life of ceaseless praise for the salvation that is ours through you. O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the saints in light, that you will wipe every tear from their eyes as they dwell with you eternally.

O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

Holy God, you are our hope and our strength, our light and our sovereign, our shepherd, and our savior.

With all the saints in heaven and on earth, we praise your holy name and entrust every care to you; through Jesus Christ we pray.

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. Steven Meadows

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION

UMH 359

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

+BENEDICTION

Pastor

Go now in the courage and blessing of the Risen Christ to live as bearers of the astounding good news to bring hope and peace in a world that so desperately needs Resurrection. Amen.

+POSTLUDE

...and the worship continues.

