

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP



GATHERING AS
GOD'S PEOPLE
TO BE INSPIRED
TO LIVE AS A
COMMUNITY
OF CHRIST

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

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS - The Faith We Sing

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

THE CHURCH GATHERS 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."

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Leader*

If our minds have ever surrendered to dark thoughts,
If our hearts have sunk into the depths of despair,
If our spirits have emptied promises, we rejoice this day!
In our minds, bright hopes arise.
In our hearts, love soars to new heights.
In our spirits, we sense that an empty tomb is a promise fulfilled.
For new life given through the risen Christ, we offer our thanks and praise!
Thanks be to God! Welcome to worship!

+INVOCATION *Unison*

Lord of Light and Mercy, be with us this day as we again hear the stories of faith and sight. Help us to believe in your abiding presence with us, both in our darkness and in the light which you bring. Give us

**courage and strength to embrace your resurrection.
For we offer this in Jesus' Name, Amen.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 545*
The Church's One Foundation

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

THE PSALTER *Psalm 119:1-20*

CALL TO CONFESSION *Leader*

This is the judgment that Light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us uncover our sin before the saving grace and light of Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Unison*

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been sincere Christians.

We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.

We profess to be disciples, but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.

We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for sincere repentance through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *Responsively*

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

THE CHURCH WORSHIPS BY GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Dan Martin*

+DOXOLOGY *UMH 621*

Be Present at Our Table Lord

Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored; thy creatures bless, and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee.

The Children are invited to Wiggletime.

THE CHURCH LISTENS

WIGGLETIME... **Ready, Set, Go to Children Church!**

ANTHEM *Chancel Choir*
Eva Atha, Director

SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

THE SOLO *Eva Atha*

THE CHURCH CELEBRATES HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION INVITATION *Responsively*

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In every time and every age, O God, it is good and faithful that we give you thanks, for your mercy is sure and your steadfast love endures forever. In your compassion you gave us Christ Jesus, who frees us from darkness and lights our path to endless renewal and life eternal.

And so, with all of creation, with all the needy and hungry ones, with all those who have enough and plenty, with creatures large and small, with the saints of every age, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, O God, Creator of all things. By your power and love you continue to deliver your people from bondage, confuse the designs of evil, show the way through the wilderness, turn hardship into righteousness, and reveal your hand upholding the just.

Blessed are you, O Christ. You came among us to feed and heal and teach, to confound the arrogant and the frauds, to challenge the wrong-hearted, and, in all these things, to give hope to those who long for peace.

We remember that on the night Christ was betrayed, having gathered with friends at the table, the Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

And again, after supper, he took the cup and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering our Lord's self-giving love, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Blessed are you, O Spirit, giver of life. You give us words when we have none; you fill us with vision when we have the most need; you give us voice to proclaim our faith in every hour. Be our guide and teacher, today and always. Come now, O Prince of Peace, Spirit of Love, Breath of Life. Bring to all this hurting world the joy that Mary knew, and teach us to proclaim with her,

"I have seen the Lord!"

In the unity of the Holy Trinity, in gratitude for the great day of resurrection, we praise you, God of all that is, now and forever.

And as Jesus taught us, let us pray:

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.

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*As you move forward to receive the bread and cup, pray
For those around you, and after you've received the
elements, you're welcome to stand or kneel at the
Chancel in personal prayer.*

THE CHURCH SCATTERS AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

+HYMN OF COMMITMENT *UMH 567*

Heralds of Christ

+SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Responsively*

O Lord our God, we rise from this table knowing a love beyond our deserving. Thank you for giving us a place at your table; for serving us the bread of life; for offering us the cup of salvation. In humility and hope, we go now from this place, refreshed, and renewed, our souls fed, and ready once again to be your people. In Christ we pray.

Amen.

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.

