



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Since February 12, 1872

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Liturgist

Sarah Frederick

Deb Wickman

Organist

Rosemary Matthews

Pianist

Kelley Fog

Choir Director

Dave Fog

Bell Choir Director

Melanie Flynn

Computer

Anderson Family

Video/Livestream

Keaton Duhn

Easter Thursday

April 4, 2021, 8:00AM & 10:00AM

PRELUDE

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia!

Liturgist: The tomb is empty!

People: Alleluia!

Liturgist: Christ is alive!

People: Alleluia!

*OPENING HYMN 302 Christ the Lord is Risen Today (verses 1-4)

*OPENING PRAYER

God of hope, in the midst of death,
you call forth lift.

When all hope seemed gone,
you raised Jesus from the grave.

We come before you today,
longing for your life-giving presence.

God of new life,
raise us up with all your people.

Lift us from the tombs of our despair and doubt,
that we may rejoice in your power over death.

God of joy, fill our hearts with alleluias
as we sing your praises.

Glorify to God. Amen!

JOYS CONCERNS PRAYERS

*SCRIPTURE READINGS John 20:1-18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹²and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

MESSAGE OF LIFE Hojin Shin "God's Transcendent Love; Death & Resurrection"

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of life and love, like Peter, we gaze into the empty tomb and see only death.

Like Mary, we stand weeping over loss.

We so often feel hopeless.

We don't recognize any possibility for joy.

Surprise us with your work in the world.

May we dry our tears, as we dance into new life. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear the good news:

God washes our souls with love and grace
before we even ask.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The risen Jesus offers forgiveness of sins through his name.

Rejoice, Jesus gives you new life.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 882**

***HYMN 2068 I Love You, Lord**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads

We lift them up to God

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Lift up your hands

**We dedicate our heads, our hearts,
and our hands to the worship of God.**

We offer our entire being to the God of Creation,
who made the sun and the moon to govern by day and by night
and hung the stars in the sky.

We offer our entire being to the great God
who hollowed out the valleys and bulged up the mountains,
who spat out the seven seas,
and populated the world with glorious creatures.
Blessed be the name of the Lord
who created us and fashioned us from the dust
and breathed into us the breath of life.

***HYMN 2105 Bless His Holy Name**

Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
who came to us in spite of our destructive ways.
He healed the sick, raised the dead, and cast out demons.
In the brief time that he was with us,
Jesus sided with the oppressed,
had compassion for those who suffer,
and gave dignity to women and children.
He taught us in word and deed about a God we had been unable to understand.

In spite of his glory-revealing presence among us,
we turned him into a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.
Jesus was persecuted by certain religious leaders and betrayed by one of his own.
He was lied about, tortured, and hung on a cross to die.

Yet, even on the day of his crucifixion,
Jesus continued to teach those who would listen.
When evil people came with his betrayer,
Jesus did not respond with violence, choosing instead to remind us that
those who live by the sword will die by the sword.
When he was falsely accused and condemned to death,
Jesus refused to do harm.
And while hanging on the cross, he prayed:
"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

But we give you thanks that nothing ever was,
or ever will be,
able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Early on the morning of the third day
Jesus laughed at death,
shed his grave clothes,
and walked among us alive!
Forty days later, he ascended into heaven,
where he is seated at the right hand of the God of our ancestors.
Our eyes are turned toward the skies looking for the day
when Jesus shall return to a kingdom without end,
where the lion will lie down peaceably with the lamb,
where sickness and disease are not known
where the wicked will cease from troubling
and we will study war no more!

***HYMN 2203 In His Time (Verse 1)**

On the night that Jesus was betrayed,
He shared a meal with his disciples.
He took bread from the table, gave thanks to God,
and gave it to his disciples saying:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was over he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Today, Jesus, we remember the bread and the cup.
Today, we remember your life and your death.
We remember your resurrection; we remember eternal life.
As we receive these gifts in praise and thanksgiving we proclaim
the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!

Holy God, pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine;
make them be for us the body and blood of Christ.
Wonder-working God, pour out your Spirit upon us;
as we offer ourselves to be God's presence in the world
until Jesus returns in glory.

Almighty God,
We your people cry out to you on behalf of our community:
Have mercy upon all who suffer from the evils of poverty.
Have mercy, Lord!
Have mercy upon all who have lost their way.
Have mercy, Lord!
Have mercy upon all who have been offended by the church.
Have mercy, Lord!
Have mercy upon all who feel forgotten and neglected.
Have mercy, Lord!
Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

***LORD'S PRAYER**

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY** 95 Praise God, From Who All Blessings Flow

***CLOSING HYMN** 322 Up From the Grave He Arose

***BLESSING**

SONG OF SENDING FORTH 2088 Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

POSTLUDE

God is Good!