



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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March 31, 2024

HOLY COMMUNION
FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

() You are invited to stand as you are able*
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Silent Prayer and Time for Centering

Prelude Easter Gladness *Arr. for Handbell ensemble, Margaret Tucker*

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CALL TO WORSHIP **

Where shattered hearts are made whole,
where wounded souls are healed,
where life is stronger than death:
there, the stone has been rolled away.

**Where the lonely become our friends,
where a stranger is welcomed home,
where hope is stronger than despair,
there, we find Jesus walking.**

Where the anxious find serenity,
where love is stronger than hate:
there, Jesus is opening our eyes.

**The stone has been rolled away!
Jesus is our companion on the journey!
Our eyes are opened to the needs of others!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Alleluia! Christ is with us!

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 302

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!
* 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Al - le - lu - ia!
* 6. King of glo - ry, soul of bliss, Al - le - lu - ia!

Earth and heaven in cho - rus say, Al - le - lu - ia!
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ev - er - last - ing life is this, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Thee we greet tri - um - phant now, Al - le - lu - ia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where's thy vic - tory, boast - ing grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!
Hail the Res - ur - rec - tion, thou, Al - le - lu - ia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739
MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN
77.77 D

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION **

Loving God,

we confess that at times

we do not share in the joy of the resurrection

but are caught in the worries of the world.

We confess that we do not always live

in the spirit of new life

but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious.

Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News.

Forgive us when we find it more comfortable

to worry and complain than to risk the joy

and encouragement of new life in Christ.

Call us back to Your ways, O God,

to seek hope and reconciliation,

restoration and peace.

Now let us lift up our own prayer of confession in silence.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE ***

Christ is Risen!

The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty.

Mary calls out, "I have seen the Lord!"

We have seen Christ, too,

in every helping hand,

in every heartfelt gift,

in every choice to restore life in this world.

We are called to this new life,

a life of forgiveness and reconciliation.

You are forgiven;

accept your forgiveness

and know that God loves you

and desires great joy for your life.

Walk forward on this journey of faith,

knowing your brothers and sisters are with you.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson:

[Psalm 118: 1-2. 14-24](#)

(Pg. 492) **

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

Christ Is Risen

307

Unison

1. Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e -
2. Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the
3. Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er -

brate this day of days. Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der,
cav - erns of des - pair. Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing.
more shall be the same. Break the bread of new cre - a - tion

all cre - a - tion is a - mazed. In the de - sert all - sur -
See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of res - ur -
where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, de - mon - ic

round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown. Heal - ing leaves of
rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend; Je - sus is our
cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!" God the First and

grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1984

MUSIC: Polish carol; arr. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1926; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1964

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For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,

Thanks be to God!

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world is become
the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ,

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords.

and He shall reign for ever and ever,

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign for ever and ever, for ever and ever.

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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SERMON

People of the New-Covenant 7

"Roll Away the Stone"

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

***HYMN**

- 1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
As he said and as he promised,
As we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
Let the sun sustain the cheer;
Let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!**
- 2. Christ has risen for the people
Whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
Bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
Huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
Can't be silenced by the tomb.**
- 3. Christ has risen to companion
Former friends who fear the night,
Sensing loss and limitation
Where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer,
They expect no hopeful sign
Till Christ ends their conversation,
Breaking bread and sharing wine.**
- 4. Christ has risen and for ever
Lives to challenge and to change
All whose lives are messed or mangled,
All who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
Making us what he has been'
Evidence of transformation
In which God is known and seen.**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Sharing of Joys and Concerns

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ Is Our Cornerstone

Music by David Ogden

Christ is our Cornerstone, on Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled;
On His great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.

O then with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing;
And thus proclaim in joyful song both loud and long, that glorious Name.

Alleluia! Deo Gratias! Thanks be to God!

Here, gracious God, do Thou forevermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow, and mark each suppliant sigh;
In copious shower on all who pray, each holy day, Thy blessings pour.

Here may we gain from Heav'n, the grace which we implore;
And may that grace, once given, be with us evermore;
Until that day when all the blest to endless rest are called away.

Alleluia! Deo Gratias! Thanks be to God!

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THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

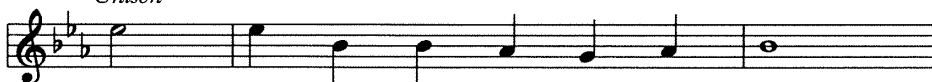
94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison

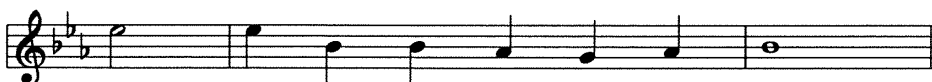
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;



praise God, all crea - tures here be - low:

Harmony
Unison

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!



Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

Refrain (Harmony)
Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is risen

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Lift Up Your hearts.....

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.....

It is right to give our thanks and praise

..... *and all the company of heaven*

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

William Mathias



Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

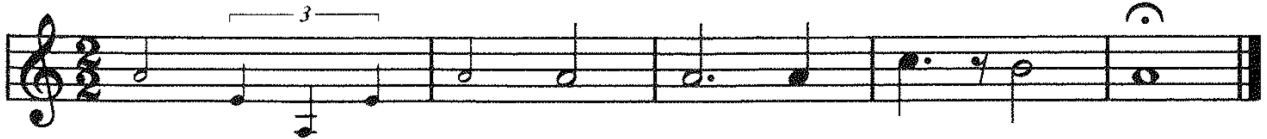
..... *in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.....*



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

..... *all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.*



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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[The Lord's Prayer](#)

(UMH p. 895)

Communion is Celebrated

Prayer Following Communion:

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.

We are fed by your love;

we are strengthened by your life.

We are sent forth into this world

to live your way and share your joy.

We are now commissioned to:

feed as we have been fed,

forgive as we have been forgiven,

and love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God. Amen

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Christ Is Alive

318

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris-tians sing. His cross stands
2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
scorn, or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
this and ev - ery age, till earth and all cre -

prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
here and now and dwell in ev - ery place and time.
midst of life, our Sav - ior in the God-head reigns.
loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
a - tion ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

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*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Volunteers Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist: Gary Leughmyer

Video and Sound: Zac Cook

Altar Flowers: *The Easter flowers this morning are donated by the congregation members in memory and/or honor of loved ones. Happy Easter!*

Cover Image: Tissot, James, 1836-1902. Mary Magdalene Questions the Angels in the Tomb, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56871> [retrieved March 28, 2024]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn_Museum_-_Mary_Magdalene_Questions_the_Angels_in_the_Tomb_\(Madeleine_dans_le_tombeau_interroge_les_anges\)_-_James_Tissot.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn_Museum_-_Mary_Magdalene_Questions_the_Angels_in_the_Tomb_(Madeleine_dans_le_tombeau_interroge_les_anges)_-_James_Tissot.jpg).

Background on the art on today's cover can be found [HERE](#)

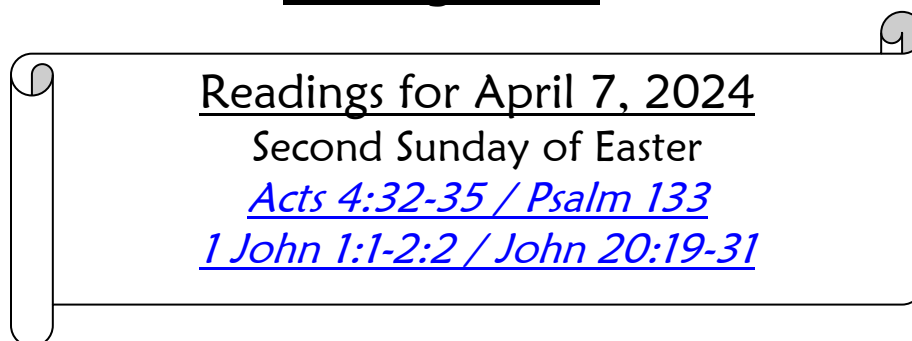
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*** Worship elements from "[Unfolding Light](#)"

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Looking Ahead



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