



the good news is..

alive in the world

April 5, 2026

*Holy Communion for  
Easter Sunday*

(†) *The congregation is invited to stand or (Sit with Gusto)*  
**(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds**

## THE CHURCH GATHERS

*Silent Prayer and Time for Centering*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Tuya Es La Gloria* Arr. Susan T. (Nelson) Sylvester

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\*CALL TO WORSHIP \*\*\*

On Friday,

we thought the good news had been silenced.

**On Friday,**

**we thought the good news had taken its last breath.**

On Friday,

we thought the good news had been buried.

**But today,**

**we know the good news is alive and well.**

The good news is dancing!

**The good news is on the loose!**

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

**Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.**

Let us worship our good-news Christ.

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**

**Gracious God, we want to be Easter people.**

**We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.**

**We want to follow the disciples who ran to look for you.**

**We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid,"  
but we are afraid.**

**And we don't know where to look.**

**And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.**

**So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.**

**We are best intentions and best laid plans.**

**We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias."**

**We are on our way, but we are not there yet.**

**Show us how to embody your good news in this world.**

**Show us how to be your Easter people.**

**With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.**

## **† WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Family of faith,

even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias,"  
we belong to God.

Jesus died and rose for you.

And there is nothing that could keep God's love at bay.

So join me in this good news declaration:

**Through Jesus Christ we are seen,  
saved, loved, and claimed.**

**This is the good news of the gospel!**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

# THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson:

[Romans 8:31-39](#)

(Pg. 980) \*\*

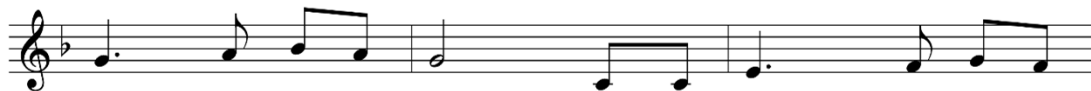
## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### † HYMN OF PREPARATION

#### In the Bulb There Is a Flower



1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; In the  
2. There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, Seek - ing  
3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; In our



seed, an ap - ple tree; In co - coons, a hid - den  
word and mel - o - dy; There's a dawn in ev - 'ry  
time, in - fin - i - ty; In our doubt there is be -



prom - ise: But - ter - flies will soon be free! In the  
dark - ness, Bring - ing hope to you and me. From the  
liev - ing; In our life, e - ter - ni - ty. In our



cold and snow of win - ter There's a spring that waits to be,  
past will come the fu - ture; What it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
death, a res - ur - rec - tion; At the last, a vic - to - ry,



Un-re-vealed un-til its sea-son, Some-thing God a-lone can see.

Text: Natalie Sleeth, 1930–1992  
Tune: PROMISE, 8 7 8 7 D; Natalie Sleeth, 1930–1992  
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### † GOSPEL LESSON:

[Matthew 28: 1-10](#)

(Pg. 811) \*\*

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## † GOSPEL RESPONSE

*Hallelujah Chorus* George F. Handel (1685-1789)

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!

*Words from scripture, Music: George Fredrick Handel; Public Domain*

SERMON: Ho-Soon Han



The Good News Is:  
*"ALIVE IN THE WORLD"*

# THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

† HYMN

BECAUSE HE LIVES

*RESURRECTION*

God sent His Son they called Him Jesus  
he came to love heal and forgive  
he bled and died to buy my pardon,  
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives

### Chorus

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living just because He lives*

How sweet to hold a newborn baby  
and feel the pride and joy he gives;  
but greater still the calm assurance  
this child can face uncertain days because Christ lives

And then one day I'll cross that river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
and then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns

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# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Sharing of Joys and Concerns*

## 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

### The Easter Song of Praise

*Richard Shephard (1949-2021)*

Sing choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!

Around God's throne exult in harmony!

Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!

Salute your king in glorious symphony!

Sing choirs of earth! Behold your light has come!

The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!

Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!

The night is past; the day of light is here!

Sing Church of God! Exalt with joy outpoured!

The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!

Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore!

Let all God's people shout the loud Amen!

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# \*DOXOLOGY

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

## 94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Unison*



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;



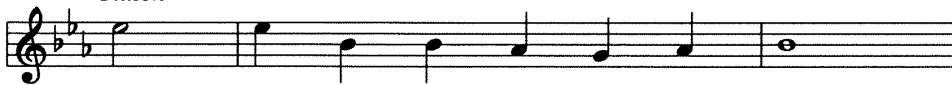
praise God, all creatures here below:

*Harmony*

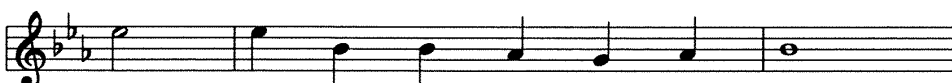


Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*



Praise God, the source of all our gifts!



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

*Refrain (Harmony)*



Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!

*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.....*

William Mathias

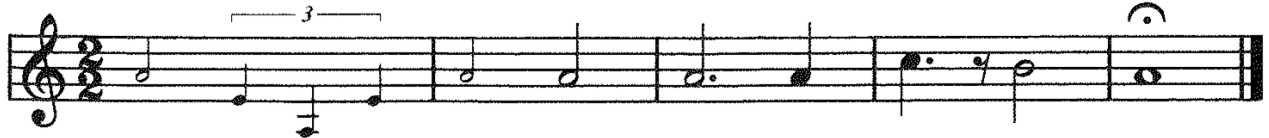


Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

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

William Mathias



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

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## The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Prayer Following Communion:

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world**

**in the strength of your Spirit,**

**to give ourselves for others,**

**in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

# Christ Is Alive

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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

Toccatà on "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Joyce Jones

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## Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist:

*John Wilderman*

Video and Sound Engineer

*Brogan Meehan*

Altar Flowers:

*The Congregation. Happy Easter!*

Guest Musicians : *Sharon Bove – Flute / Kristen Sturtevant – Trumpet*

Cover Art:

*A Sanctified Art*

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\*\*\*Worship elements by "A Sanctified Art" & UMC Discipleship Resources

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### Looking Ahead

Readings for April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 / Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9 / John 20:19-31



First United Methodist Church

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Putting Our Faith into Motion  
By Feeding the Body, Mind, and Soul

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