



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

March 31, 2024

EASTER // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Leader: Dr. Renee Mackey

Liturgist: Edna Quoie

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is Risen!
He is risen, indeed!

OPENING SONG

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

GTG #232
Congregation

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Astounding God, very early on that first day you caught chaos unawares: planting grace in a garden, setting love loose on creation, flinging joy into the air.

Jesus, Son of Justice, you staggered sin, throwing its weight off the world; you confounded death, leaving it alone in the grave; you opened the gates of the kingdom, so all could follow you into life.

Comforting Spirit, while we were trying to make sense of our lives, you sang glad songs to us, rolling away fears from our hearts so we can see the Risen Lord.

Thanks be to God. God in Community, Holy and One.

OPENING PRAYER

**Yesterday we were crucified with Christ; today we will be glorified with him.
Yesterday we died with Christ; today we will return to life with him.
Yesterday we were buried with Christ; today we will rise with him from the tomb.
Alleluia! Amen.**

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” GTG #240, vs. 4

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.
Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

SCRIPTURE READING #1 Mark 16:1 – 8

ANTHEM “Come Morning” SJU Chancel Choir
(Michael Myrick)

Come morning, after the night
comes the day and the light.
Come morning, the earth awakes
night gives way to the day.
Come morning, come morning.

Yours is the glory, risen, conquering Son.
Endless is the victory over death now won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where His body lay.

Mary greets Jesus risen from the tomb;
lovingly He sees her, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord lives again, death has lost its sting.

No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without you; help us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through your deathless love,
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above,
to your home above.

Yours is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory over death now won!
All the earth sing praises to the holy one,
Christ the Lord is risen, new life has just begun.

Sing we all this morning, Alleluia!
hymns to Christ our Savior. Alleluia!
Lift your praises singing, of the risen one!
Glory comes this morning. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE READING #2

Isaiah 25:6 – 9

TIME WITH CHILDREN

“Easter Egg Baskets”

Pastor Renee Mackey

MESSAGE

“EASTER SURPRISE”

Pastor Renee Mackey

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord’s Prayer
(new version)

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY SONG

OF REFLECTION

“Thine is the Glory”

GTG #238

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

Refrain

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Refrain

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Risen Savior, as we contemplate your cross, we are drawn not into intellectual understanding, but into the passionate reality of your love. We offer our wounds to be held with yours along with our time and talents. Take our wounds, our waiting, and our spiritual gifts, and in your rising, liberate their potential so that what is mortal may be transformed into a generous spirit. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Christ is Alive!”

GTG #246

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, and truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy,
with justice, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

(children with instruments)

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”

GTG #591 (chorus)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

Worship Resources:

Burgess, Ruth. *Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday*. Iona, Scotland: Wild Good Publ., 2006, p. 27, 65.

Halmo, Joan and Frank Henderson comp. Chicago: *A Triduum Sourcebook III*. Liturgy training Publ., 1996, p. 450.

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

Mark 16: 1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Isaiah 25: 6-9

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

