



**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**

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**APRIL 4, 2021**

**Welcome Visitors:** We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask greeter or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us.

May God bless your experience in worship with us today.  
We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

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**EASTER SUNDAY**

**APRIL 4, 2021**  
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**CENTERING**

"Christ Is Arisen"

J.K.Fischer

PRELUDE

**EASTER GATHERING WORDS**

Pastor: The night is far gone. There is dew on the grass.

**People: We walk with Mary to the tomb.**

Pastor: Why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?

**People: Lost in our grief, we feel abandoned...alone...These days have been dark. The news has been sad. The sounds of this past week haunt us. We weep with Mary for all hope seems lost.**

Pastor: The cross has claimed his life. The tomb has shrouded our hope.

**People: We don't know where to turn for comfort. We don't know what to do with our grief.**

Pastor: A flicker of hope ignites in the soul...waving in the wind...challenging the triumph of darkness.

**People: Yet, surely there is no cheating death?**

Pastor: Gently, lovingly, angels question our tears...for God is stronger than death. Out of the shadows of the tomb, the light of Christ shines forth in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

**People: In the depths of our souls, the light of Christ brings us back to the land of the living.**

Pastor: As the light of Christ dawns, we find that we are not alone.

**People: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.**

***He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.***

## LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

**People: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life."**

Pastor: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

**People: Christ is our light!**

## PRAISING

## \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

No. 302, vs. 1-4

***Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!  
Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!  
Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!  
Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,, Alleluia!***

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, the tomb is empty! The stone has been rolled away.

**People: Christ has risen! He is risen, indeed!**

Pastor: For three days he lay in that cold and lonely cave.

**People: But God's love cannot be contained by anything, not even death!**

Pastor: Thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Risen Lord.

**People: Death has been swallowed up in victory!**

Pastor: Where, O death, is your victory?

**People: Where, O death, is your sting?**

Pastor: Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen, indeed!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship the Risen Christ!

## HYMN

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

No. 302, vs. 5 &amp; 6

***Hail the Lord of earth and heaven. Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, though, Alleluia!  
King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia! Everlasting life is this, Alleluia! Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!  
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia! Thus to sing and thus to love, Alleluia!***

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Pastor: Risen Christ, we come today trusting in the power of your love to overcome even death. Yet there is much we do not understand. Like Mary when she found the stone rolled away, we find previously unimaginable things unfolding before us. Today we lift up those who walk alone and confused through the darkness of anxiety, illness or death. Lord, in your mercy.

**People: Receive our prayers.**

Pastor: Like the disciples who ran toward the tomb, our minds race toward anything that might bring us hope. Today we lift up those who labor on our behalf to find answers, make decisions, and offer responses in our communities. Lord, in your mercy.

**People: Receive our prayers.**

Pastor: Like grief-stricken Mary crying out to the Gardener, we weep in exhaustion and beg for help. Today we lift up those who care for the sick, who walk with the grieving, and who offer essential services for us all. Lord, in your mercy.

**People: Receive our prayers.**

Pastor: Like Mary reaching toward Jesus, we grasp for security and find it elusive. Today we lift up those who face the insecurity of lost jobs, closed businesses, and financial distress. Lord, in your mercy.

**People: Receive our prayers.**

Pastor: Lord in your mercy, unlock hope within our hearts today. Do for us what you did for Mary and the disciples: Open our eyes to see that you are with us; open our ears to hear you calling us by name; and turn our hearts toward others that we might share the good news that we too have seen the Risen Christ!

**All: Amen.**

INTRIOT

"Majesty, Worship His Majesty"

No. 176

**Majesty, worship his majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise. Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from his Throne unto his own; his anthem raise. So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King. Majesty, worship his majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

## HEARING

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Pastor: Living Christ, prepare us once more to hear your resurrection message.

People: **Open our hearts to the joyous gift of life shared with us this day. And open our minds to your presence, each and every day.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

No. 327, v. 4

**Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side, those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou has died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**

FIRST LESSON

Acts 10:34-43

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

LESSON RESPONSE

"Up From the Grave He Arose"

No. 322

***Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior! Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes; He arose a victor from the dark domain  
and He lives forever with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!  
Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior! He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes; He arose a victor from the dark domain  
and he lives forever with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!***

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Alleluia"

No. 186

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. John

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

\*THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 20:1-18

\*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

\*SUNG RESPONSE

"Thine Be the Glory"

No. 308, v. 1

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where the body lay.**

## PROCLAIMING

EASTER HOMILY

"Easter Running"

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

## RESPONDING

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Bring your hope. Bring your love. Bring new life, as you share your gifts with the Risen Christ.

### OFFERTORY

“Voluntary”

F.H. Himmel

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

### \*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

No. 95

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of grace and God of glory, pour your power on your people this day, that our lives may reflect the gift we have received through the resurrection of Your Son. Truly, we see that You show no partiality, offering abundance of life and fullness of grace to all who turn to You in their need. With deepest gratitude for your many gifts, particularly the gift of Your Son, we offer You our tithes and offerings this day. In the name of the resurrected One, we pray. Amen**

## CELEBRATING

### \*EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: We proclaim today that Christ is risen!

**People: We proclaim today that we are alive in him!**

Pastor: We proclaim today that sin has lost its power!

**People: We proclaim today that death is defeated!**

Pastor: We proclaim today that Jesus is King!

**All: Hallelujah!**

### HYMN

“He Lives”

310 V.3

## SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed!**

Pastor: We run to the tomb to see for ourselves. And it is true. Christ has risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed!**

Pastor: We hear a voice call our name, and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always.

**People: Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Thanks be to God. Hallelujah!**

### HYMN

“Because He Lives”

No 364, v. 1 & 3

*God sent his Son, they called Him Jesus; he came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove My Savior lives.  
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.*

*And then one day I'll cross the 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.  
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.*

### POSTLUDE

“God Gave To Us This Glorious Day”

J.G. Walther