

Sunday April 17, 2022
Easter Sunday

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

People: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.

Leader: Out of the doom of death and despair, victory comes, glory appears.

People: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.

Leader: He shall live, witness, and recount the deeds of the God whose love endures forever.

People: We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.

***Invocation**

O, Redeeming God, Like Mary of Magdala weeping at the tomb, we, too, have witnessed the wonders of your work with our own teary eyes. In this hour, O God, elevate us in Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit, so that others may be awakened through our preaching and proclaiming the good news: news of healing, peace, justice, and community for all people. Amen.

***Hymn #233: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"**

Call to Confession

God, you call us to step out of the tombs that aim to consume us and more intentionally into the fullness of life that abounds in your presence. In stillness and in silence, let us acknowledge the ways we have been separated from the richness of who you have called us to be.

Prayer of Confession

We admit that we have not always remembered the creative power of resurrection. In a world where dreams and joy have been entombed, and chaos is celebrated and normalized, we have not always considered the divine ingenuity at work that calls us toward the ways of peace, love, and hope. Although we may have strayed from the places where we meet you, we trust that not even death can separate us from you and the creative ways you show your love for us.

Assurance of Grace

We know that you can bring us back to life, O God—that you will meet us in the shadows and remind us that there are no limits to this life. Through the power of the Christ whose resurrection we declare, we are a forgiven people.

Passing of the Peace

(For those in the sanctuary please remain in your seats as you turn to one another and by word and a gesture that is comfortable to you, you greet one another. For those in remote locations be aware that you too are included in the peace that Christ gives us all.)

Response Hymn #236: “Hallelujah”

Halle, halle, halleluja.
Halle, halle, halleluja.
Halle, halle, halleluja.
Halleluja, halleluja.

Reading from the Gospel: John 20:1-18

Terry Henderson

Anthem: “Because You Live, O Christ”

Sermon: “Letting Go”

***Hymn #237:** “I Come to the Garden Alone”

The Community at Prayer

(Joys and Concerns, Prayer for the People, Lord’s Prayer)

Prayer Response Hymn #282 “Every Time I Feel the Spirit” *(Refrain only)*

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”
Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Offertory

The gifts that we bring to this community compound and create resurrection power, helping us to awaken wholeness in the broken, strength in the weakened, and liberation for all living in the midst of injustice. Let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate as you enter or leave the sanctuary, through mailing your gift to the church office or through signing up for electronic giving through our website.)

Anthem: "The Day of Resurrection"

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community, help us nurture caring relationships with our neighbors, and do our part to liberate all who are experiencing oppression, we dedicate these gifts.

People: **Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be the resurrection we need to see in the world.**

***Hymn #230:** "Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

***Commissioning and Benediction**

From the Tomb Service Prayers for Easter Sunday Year C were written by Rev. Mia M. McClain, the Associate Minister at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC and a member of the Southern Conference UCC.