

**March 31, 2024**  
Easter Sunday

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Holy Mystery, you call us to this joyous moment, to celebrate the good news of the resurrection, to see the new promise of life everlasting. Through your grace, we have traveled with Jesus through the forty days of Lent.

**People: We have joined the disciples, waving palms on his triumphal entry into Jerusalem; our feet have been washed, and we have eaten and drunk in the presence of Christ.**

Leader: Like the disciples, we have fallen asleep in the garden, waking to realize you must die on the cross. Now we stand, blinking our eyes in amazement at the empty tomb, wondering at the miracle that you have accomplished, astonished at this good news, the mystery of faith in you:

**People: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**

Leader: By your spirit, make us one with Christ and in Christ, that we might be a holy people, spreading the good news of the resurrection, through all the world. Amen.

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

**Invocation**

**Giver of new life, we come this morning with our alleluias, banners, lilies, trumpets and songs. We come to worship in beauty and in truth, because we have faith that Jesus Christ is raised from the dead, hope that the resurrection will enter each of our lives to transform them, and because, through Christ's spirit, we have come to love one another. Accept our worship, gracious God. Be present with us as miracle, mystery and tender hands of grace. Amen.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Scripture:**

John 20:1-18

Tina Alston

**Anthem:** On This Joyful Easter Morn, by Marti L. Lantz and David Lantz III

**Time With Young Disciples** (followed by the Easter Egg Hunt)

## **\*Litany for Easter Morning**

Leader: Trembling, the women approached the tomb! The tomb: that mysterious place of meeting. Death meeting life. Women meeting the risen Christ. Trembling.

**People: Trembling, we approach the edge where death and life meet. Death, the unknown, meets life, new life. New life faces us with its possibilities and uncertainties. Trembling, we approach.**

Leader: Easter morning: the women come face to face with Jesus, face to face with the risen Christ. They doubted, they feared, they wondered as life returned to them from death.

**People: From a triumphant Palm Sunday to a dark, betrayed Good Friday, we have journeyed to Easter. Wiser now, we know that joy and sorrow, life and death are bound together. Passing through sorrow, through death, to life and joy, we arrive at Easter.**

Leader: The Risen One still bore the marks of the nails. Life knows death. Joy knows sorrow. Yet it is life which triumphs.

**People: Death is shattered. Face to face, the disciples saw death had lost its power.**

Leader: We have survived the deaths, the sorrows, the pains. We receive new life.

**People: Rejoice! Life bursts through death. God is with us. Alleluia!**

**Anthem:** He is Risen, by Nancy Price and Don Besig

Sermon: "While it was yet dark: Resurrection happens"

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

**The Community at Prayer** (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

## **Prayer Response**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

*(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)*

## **\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Wonderful, amazing, God, we thank you that you have raised Jesus Christ from the dead, bringing us the promise of new life. With the dawning of this new day, may we awake to new opportunities to love and serve you and witness to Christ whom you have raised. Use us, and our gifts, to your glory. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #245: "The Day of Resurrection"**

\*Commissioning and Blessing

\*Choral Response

\*Postlude