



April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter

GATHERING AND PRAISE
*Please stand as you are able

Welcome

Prelude

Happy Are They Who Walk With the Lord

Gawthrop

***Call to Worship**

Sandy Bruner

It is good for God's people to gather together in unity.

We are here at the invitation of God.

In this place, God's love and grace flow into our lives.

In this place, God's blessings abound.

Praise be to God!

Praise be to God!

***Opening Prayer**

Holy One, we gather with grateful hearts
to remember the blessings of your light and love
as they flow through our lives each day.

In this moment, open our hearts to your Holy Spirit.

Open our minds to the truths of your story.

Open our hands to welcome the risen Christ among us.

And open our eyes to your glory—

a glory reflected in the faces around us.

In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

Christ, the Lord is Risen Today

UMH 302

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Passing the Peace of Christ

Sandy Bruner

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Receive the Holy Spirit and share the love of the risen Christ with one another.

Children's Message

Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music

God's Table Divine

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer of Preparation

All Praying

**Risen Christ, may the words we speak
and the stories we hear
invite us into a deeper relationship with you
and with one another. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"Locked Doors"

Pastor Larry

*Hymn

Breathe On Me, Breath of God

UMH 420

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Offertory Invitation

Sandy Bruner

The love and light of God flow through our lives, bringing us joy and hope. With thanksgiving in our hearts, let us offer our gifts to God, the source of all our blessings.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

A Spring Song

Stairs

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Prayer of Dedication

Sandy Bruner

**Abundant God, we are grateful for all your blessings,
especially for the presence of the risen Christ.**

Bless these gifts,

**that they may help bring your love and light
into our community and our world. Amen.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor Larry

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING With Musical Response

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Musical Response)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(Musical Response)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (*God*), now and for ever.

(Musical Response)

Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (All Praying)

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 word in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

The Day of Resurrection

UMH 303

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GOING FORTH WITH JOY

***Benediction**

Pastor Larry

***Chorale Benediction**

He Lives

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me

Along life's narrow way.

He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know he lives?

He lives within my heart.

***Postlude**

Crown Him Lord of Lords

Broughton

CHRIST, THE LORD HAS RISEN TODAY

*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!*

*2. 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!*

*3. 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!*

*4. 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!*

*5. 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, thou, Alleluia!*

*6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!*

BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.*

*2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,*

*until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.*

*3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.*

*4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.*

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

*The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.*

*2. Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.*

*3. Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.*