



Worship Celebration

Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020 + 11 AM

*The **Easter Season**, also known as the **Great Fifty Days**, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost (this year, on May 31). This our most joyous and celebrative season and the core of the entire Christian year. Together, we focus on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the continual invitation and call from God to live as Easter people, sharing God's love with the world.*

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

Join us in worship, Sunday mornings at 11 am, on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA), or watch and share the video of our worship service later on our website at www.umcb.org/sermons.

In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Here is good news: the grave is empty, and Christ is risen!

Alleluia! Christ is risen, indeed!

We have been born anew into a living hope

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Alleluia! Christ is risen, indeed!

Christ is our peace, a peace we now share with the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen, indeed!

Hymn

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

UMH 304

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.

Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

***Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.
Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.***

*Easter People Raise Your Voices / Henry Thomas Smart, William M. James / 1979 The United Methodist Publishing House
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Affirmation of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

UMH 882

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson—1 Peter 1.3-9 (CEB)

³ May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. ⁴ You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish—an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you. ⁵ Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God's power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time.

⁶ You now rejoice in this hope, even if it's necessary for you to be distressed for a short time by various trials. ⁷ This is necessary so that your faith may be found genuine. (Your faith is more valuable than gold, which will be destroyed even though it is itself tested by fire.) Your genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor for you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you've never seen him, you love him. Even though you don't see him now, you trust him and so rejoice with a glorious joy that is too much for words. ⁹ You are receiving the goal of your faith: your salvation.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—John 20.19-31 (CEB)

¹⁹ It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

²⁴ Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

²⁶ After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

²⁸ Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

³⁰ Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. ³¹ But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children's Message

Sermon

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Moment for Mission

Giving our Tithes and Offerings

Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online (www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Christ Has Risen

TFWS 2115

*Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.*

*Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!*

*Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.*

*Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upper room.
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.*

*Christ has risen to companion former friends who fear the night,
sensing loss and limitation where their faith had once burned bright.*

*They bemoan what is no longer, they expect no hopeful sign
till Christ ends their conversation, breaking bread and sharing wine.*

*Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.*

*Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been—
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.*

Benediction

May we leave this time of worship to celebrate all that God has done as Christ breathes new life into us and into our community, sending us out with the Spirit of forgiveness and faith for the sake of the world God so dearly loves.

May we be filled with the grace and peace and fellowship of God, who is and was and is to come.

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Morning Prayer:

Gracious God, you are the One who is and was and is to be. Thank you that Christ has freed us to be your beloved community in this world. Give me a deeper sense, as I move through this day, of what it means to say and believe that you are my "Alpha" and "Omega," by beginning and end. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Jesus, tonight I remember that your gospel gives me the power to forgive any and all, through the gift of your Holy Spirit, and that includes forgiving myself. Breathe your peace into me so that I can experience the embrace of your freedom and love this night. Amen.

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Food Collection for Church Street Ministries

Each Wednesday in April, 5 pm - 8 pm in the UMCB Parking Lot

We will be collecting non-perishable food items again to support the pantry at Church Street Ministries in the church parking lot. Dave LeBrun will be there to meet you, practicing safe social distancing and receiving your donations. Canned meat (e.g. tuna or chicken) especially is being requested. If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office (noting "food pantry" in the memo line) or by donating online at www.umcb.org/donate (noting "food pantry" in the line marked "other.") Thank you for your generous participation as we continue to love our neighbors.

Care Leaders

As an expression of our connection and mutual concern and care during this time of physical distance, we now have a team of "care leaders". They are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests. If you would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a "care leader," contact **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101). Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact **Pastor Nathan**, and we will do our best to care for you.

Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. You may also submit prayer requests via our website at www.umcb.org/sermons.

Staff & Office Hours

In accordance with the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order and for the protection of all, our staff is working from home whenever possible. If you contact the staff by email or phone message, please be assured they will respond as quickly as they are able. If your business requires a visit to the church building, please call in advance to ensure a staff member will be available.