

YOU ARE THE
GOD OF ALL
NATIONS.

Worship Celebration

Third Sunday of Easter

Native American Ministries Sunday

April 26, 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

Opening Prayer

*Eternal God, our hearts are gathered together,
yearning to know you more fully.*

Stay with us as we worship this day.

*Reveal yourself to us in the words that are spoken, the songs that are sung,
and our lives that are opened to you.*

*Help us to understand and experience your truth, your love, your life-giving grace,
in Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.*

Hymn

Now the Green Blade Riseth

UMH 311

*Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

*In the grave they laid him, Love who had been slain,
thinking that he never would awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

*Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat the springeth green.*

*Now the Green Blade Riseth / John Macleod Campbell Crum / 1928 Oxford University Press
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Affirmation of Faith

UMH 883

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

*We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.*

We trust in God.

*We are called to be church: to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.*

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. 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.*

Gospel Lesson—Luke 24.13-35 (CEB)

¹³ On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. ¹⁶ They were prevented from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast.

¹⁸ The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"

¹⁹ He said to them, "What things?"

They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. ²⁰ But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. ²² But there's more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ and didn't find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him."

²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. ²⁶ Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

²⁸When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. ²⁹But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?"

³³They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

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 - Native American Ministries Sunday

Dr. Richard Twiss, a member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, asked: "Will we be allowed to develop new ways of doing church that honor God's purposes for the creative expression of our cultures? Will new ministry partnerships and coalitions form? Will you help be a part of this wonderful process of reconciliation, restoration and release?" On Native American Ministries Sunday, we have the opportunity to respond to Dr. Twiss' questions with a resounding YES! Our generosity as a church equips and empowers Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus. You can learn more at www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/native-american-ministries-sunday. Please consider giving generously for Native American Ministries Sunday. Designate your special officering by writing "NAMS" on the memo line of your check or in the description line when giving online at www.umcb.org/donate.

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 Is Alive

UMH 318

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.*

*Not throne afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the God-head reigns.*

*In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

Christ Is Alive / Brian Wren / 1975 Hope Publishing Company / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Benediction

Christ is risen. *Christ is risen, indeed.*

And Christ is with us. *Christ is with us, indeed.*

Let us leave this time of worship to share this good news with the world.

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

Morning Prayer:

Lord Jesus, the dawning of this new day
holds possibility of new life in you.
Open my heart to signs of your resurrection
and confirm in my heart the power
of your amazing love,
that I may praise you in all things. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Loving God, you have upheld me with your love
even when I have been unaware of your presence.
As I rest from my labors, let me sleep without fear
and rise refreshed to begin a new day
in humble service, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Care Leaders

While we are apart from one another physically, we remain connected through our common mission and through our mutual concern and care. As an expression of our connection, we now have a team of “care leaders” who are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests. If you have not heard from a “care leader” yet and would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a “care leader,” contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or nhowe@umcb.org.

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. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you; we have a team of servants ready to respond as best we can. Know that none of us is alone even though we will not be gathering together in person.

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.