


Worship Celebration

Easter Sunday

April 12, 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.*



“I HAVE
SEEN THE
LORD!”

JOHN 20:18

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.

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.***

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

Proclamation of the Easter Message—John 20.1-18 (CEB)

¹ Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." ³ Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. ⁴ They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. ⁵ Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. ⁶ Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷ He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. ⁸ Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

¹¹ Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³ The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." ¹⁴ As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means *Teacher*).

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen, indeed!**

Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (vv. 1-4)

UMH 302

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!

*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!*

*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!*

*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!*

Public Domain

Lighting the Christ Candle

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

Through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not extinguish the light.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, Giver of all light and life, bless this new flame and kindle within us
a holy desire to respond to your love and grace.

By your grace, set us free from all that separates us from you and from each other;
through Jesus Christ, your Word, our Light, we pray. ***Amen.***

The light of Christ rises in glory, illuminating our hearts and minds, overcoming all sin and death.
Christ, our Light! ***Thanks be to God!***

Reaffirming our Baptismal Covenant

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we are made one with the death of Jesus Christ,
and we are raised with Christ and all creation to walk in newness of life
through the gift of baptism by water and the Spirit.

The same Spirit who gives us life empowers us with many gifts
to serve as new creatures, to renounce all wickedness and resist all evil,
to proclaim the good news, to submit to Christ as Lord,
and to be joined together as Christ's body—across time and place—
serving as Christ's representatives in the world.

We all start here. The Spirit calls and leads us all. ***Thanks be to God!***

Remember you are baptized, and be thankful! ***Glory 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.***

First Lesson—Acts 10.34-43 (CEB)

³⁴Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. ³⁵Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! ³⁷You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee

after the baptism John preached. ³⁸You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, ⁴¹not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Lesson—Colossians 3.1-4 (CEB)

¹ Therefore, if you were raised with Christ, look for the things that are above where Christ is sitting at God’s right side. ² Think about the things above and not things on earth. ³ You died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

“While It Was Still Dark...”

Prayers of the People

Moment for Mission

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.

Giving our Tithes and Offerings

The Great Thanksgiving

In these extraordinary circumstances, you are invited this morning to have a piece of bread ready to receive as we participate in the holy mystery of Communion, even while we are physically apart. We will receive the body of Christ at the same time, even though not in the same place, trusting that through the presence of the Holy Spirit, our sharing of bread is sacred, holy, and sacramental as our spirits interact with one another’s. If the Risen Christ is really present in all times and places, then surely Christ is really present among us now. There is no substitute for gathering in person with one another; however, through God’s grace, still we are held in communion with God and with one another.

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, who has raised Jesus Christ from the dead, who has given us the promise of new life and new creation in Christ's spirit and name. We give you thanks for prophets and apostles, for the disciples who discovered the empty tomb, for the faith and testimony of our ancestors in the faith, and for women and men in every age who bear witness to the power of the risen Christ for healing, reconciliation, and new life.

And so, with the fullness of your creation, we praise your name on this Easter Day as we join that unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and holy is your Word made flesh in Jesus Christ, who in life brought healing and liberation to all who were oppressed; who even in death on the cross did not waver from your way of nonviolence but forgave the ones who crucified him; and who rose from the dead and lives in and through us to this day.

On the night he gave himself so fully, Jesus gathered with the disciples, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and shared it, saying: "Receive, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, again gave thanks to you, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

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

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered in your spirit and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the real presence of the risen Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for all who yearn for new life.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry and mission to all the world, until Christ comes again in glory and we feast together in communion as your beloved.

God of newness and mystery, God of wonder and love, God of resurrection and new creation, we praise your name and rejoice in our life in you. All honor and glory is yours, now and forever. ***Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

With gratitude, O God, for the promise and gift of a new creation, we join with your Spirit in recreating our lives and this world by your love. Where there is despair, let us work for hope. Where there is defeat, let us work for renewal. In the name of the risen Christ, make us and your whole world new. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Christ Is Risen

UMH 307

*Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.
Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.
Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!*

Christ Is Risen / Brian Wren, Austin C. Lovelace / 1986 Hope Publishing, Co. / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Benediction

Christ is risen! ***Christ is risen, indeed!***

From darkness and despair, we go now to share hope and joy, for Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

From doubt and betrayal, we go now to walk in courage and faith, for Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

From suffering and death, we go now to heal a broken world, for Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

From uncertainty and worry, we go now to embody for others our faith that Christ is with us,
for Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

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

Morning Prayer:

God of endless life,
in the light of this new day
we perceive the dawning
of your new creation.
Give us wonder and delight
to enjoy this day that you have made;
through Jesus Christ, our living Lord.
Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening
and the day is almost over.
Help us to know that you are with us—
through the promise of your Word,
in the sharing of a meal,
and by the power of your Spirit
that burns within our hearts.
Bless and keep us, this night and always.
Amen.

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Easter Flowers given in memory of

My Parents - William & Verna Brennan
by Sandra Baggaley

Leonard , Ruth, & Dorothy Forster,
Elroy & Edith Evanson, and Paul & Delores Maille
by Bruce & Carol Forster

Bill Hunger by Mary Lou Hunger

Our Granddaughter, Danielle New
by Bob & Jackie King

Don & Betsy Pierce by Bill & Bep Pierce

Donald & Jane Skelley and
George & Washington Skelley
by Ron & Phyllis Skelley

Our Mother - Charlotte Gorey
by Scott & Kathy Zacharyasz

Easter Flowers given in honor of

My Wonderful Sons - Brian & Eric by Brad Elles

Our Children, Grandchildren, & Great Grandchildren -
All 23 of them by Bob & Jackie King

Our loved ones by Barb Peterson & Tim Riggle

Our Children & Grandchildren -
Craig, Hillary, Chris, & Eli
by Scott & Kathy Zacharyasz

Thank you to everyone who ordered Easter flowers. They are a lovely addition to our Facebook Live online worship on Easter Sunday morning.

If you would like to pick up your flowers, they will be available on the Front Porch after Noon on Sunday, April 12.

If you would like your flowers but are unable to pick them up yourself, please contact the church office at 440-234-3525 x100 (leave a message) or info@umcb.org. We will attempt to arrange delivery.

Gideon Bible given in memory of

Virden & Roberta Beckman and Harry & Marie Gregg
by Karl & Cass Beckman

Bud & Bera Caldwell, John Kappeler, Jean Tharp, and
Don & Claire Thompson by The Caldwelles

Bill Hunger by Mary Lou Hunger

John Kappeler by Carol & David Kappeler

Wm & Beryl Hamilton, Mary Ann Lundblad,
Mike Romano, and Barb Rochford by Nancy Schillace

Donald & Jane Skelley and
George & Washington Skelley by Ron & Phyllis Skelley

Shelli Bennett, Dennis Dickey, Joe Faron,
and John Rebar by Judy & Chet Talarczyk

Gideon Bible given in honor of

Kimberly Ann Kus by Bruce & Carol Forster

Mary French, Dolores & Mike Halapy,
Arlene & Joe Masionis, Beth Barner, and
Joanne Mansfield by Judy & Chet Talarczyk



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.



†
He
is not here;
he has risen!

Luke 24:6

