



LARGE PRINT

# Worship Celebration

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024 + 9 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 19). This is 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, practicing resurrection by sharing God's renewing 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 United Methodist Church of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, in our relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

# **We Gather as God's Children**

## **Welcome**

### **Proclamation of the Easter Message—Matthew 28.1-10 (NRSVUE)**

**28** After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Leader: Christ is risen!

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

**Prelude**

*Ellacombe*

Albert L. Travis

### **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 Lord, we pray. ***Amen.***

The light of Christ rises in glory, illuminating our lives,

    overcoming all sin and death.

Christ, our Light! ***Thanks be to God!***

+ Hymn

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

UMH 302

**Prayers of the People (Seeking & Offering Peace)**

**Music of Meditation & Reflection**

*Improvisation on “Crown Him with Many Crowns”*

## **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.***

**Scripture Lesson**—John 11.1-3, 17-26, 33-36, 43-44 (*NRSVUE*)

**11** Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother

would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: *Christ is risen, indeed!*

### **Scripture Lesson**—John 11.45-53 (NRSVUE)

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him. <sup>46</sup> But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup> So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council and said, “What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.” <sup>49</sup> But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all! <sup>50</sup> You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed.” <sup>51</sup> He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, <sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. <sup>53</sup> So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: *Christ is risen, indeed!*

**Sermon** - *The Revolutionary Resurrection*

Dr. Stephen J. Knisely

**+ Hymn**

*Up from the Grave He Arose*

UMH 322

**Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings**

**Choir Anthem**

*Come an' See*

arr. David Poole

**+ Hymn**

*Easter People Raise Your Voices*

UMH 304

**Invitation to Communion**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

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,

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,

your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,

made covenant to be our sovereign God,

brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey,

and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their 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 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.

By your great mercy we have been born anew  
to a living hope through the resurrection  
of your Son from the dead  
and to an inheritance  
that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people,  
declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,  
who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy 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."

On the day you raised him from the dead  
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,  
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued  
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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.

***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 God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

<b>Hymn</b>	<i>The Day of Resurrection</i>	UMH 303
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>At the Font We Start Our Journey</i>	TFWS 2114
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Christ Has Risen</i>	TFWS 2115

### **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

*He Lives*

UMH 310

+ 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!***

Postlude

*Amen from "Messiah"*

George Friderick Handel  
arr. Josh Kraybill

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