



FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
323 South 5th Avenue, West Bend WI 53095

EASTER SUNDAY ~ March 31, 2024



Ellen Johnson, Liturgist
Sherry Gerhartz, Congregational Song Leader
Deanna Gibeau, Accompanist
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE ~ Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UMC

We Are Glad You Are Here! We are so thankful that you have joined us today for Worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Join us following worship for Fellowship Hour. There will be yummy refreshments and coffee and lots of *friendly faces*.

***Note: L - denotes worship "Leader"; P - denotes "People"**

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE: "Easter Celebration" **Robert Hughes**

GREETING:

Pastor: Welcome Easter people. What must we do so that our Easter Sunday worship is not a noisy gong or clanging symbol, but an expression of the Love that saves us? Look for Jesus. Really look for Jesus. Look for Jesus in the faces we welcome through our doors. Look for Jesus in our prayers for our neighbors across the street and around the world. Look for Jesus in the voices that join in singing the Good News and in the creation that offers up flowers to remind us of the beauty of new life. Look for Jesus as we point ourselves toward the exit, ready to enter the world as Easter people. Look for Jesus and know that Jesus is already there, loving and teaching us how to love as followers of the Risen Christ. Come, let the exclamation marks go wild today because it is a day of excitement, joy, and abundance!

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

L: The Risen One comes with hands full of love. He greets us with peace the world does not know, he gives us peace the world cannot give.

P: Alleluia! Christ's peace is ours forever!

L: Let us greet each other with Easter peace!

Please share Easter Peace to your neighbors in Christ's name.

~MEDITATION FOR GATHERING~

CENTERING MUSIC:

"Elergy"

Kevin Norris

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)

L: The tomb is dark, but empty

P: The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness

L: The stone has been rolled away

P: The one you are looking for has overcome death

L: The burial clothes are put aside

P: The one you are looking for is alive!

L: Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is Risen Indeed!

Let us worship our Risen Savior!

***HYMN**

"He Lives"

UMH 310

MORNING PRAYER: (Unison)

All: God of grace and power, we have longed and prepared for this joyous day: on Ash Wednesday, we humbled ourselves before you; on Maundy Thursday, we learned a new Commandment; on Good Friday, we cried at the foot of the cross; on Holy Saturday, we kept vigil; and on this Blessed Sunday, we rejoice in the risen power of love, hope, and new life. Make this rising real in our own lives. Continue to inspire in us the joy of the Resurrection, to share the Good News with the world in word and deed. You have called us to be Your light in our world. May we share the Good News of the Resurrection: New Life begins now and is available for all. Call us into doing Your work, O God. In the name of Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

L: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, hear the good news of the Gospel: the tomb is empty! Our Lord and Savior has risen from the grave! That which has been dead is alive! No barrier, none whatsoever, can keep us from the love of God! I announce to you this day that our sins are forgiven!

P: Alleluia! Amen!

***OPENING HYMN:**

"Jesu, Jesu"

UMH 432

~WE PROCLAIM~

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION/SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 14:3-9**

(Responsively)

L: Living God, today's Good News is so wondrous, so magnificent, that we struggle to wrap our heads around it. Give our hearts the wisdom to receive that which our heads cannot fully understand. Send your Spirit to fill our whole bodies with your resurrection promise. This we pray in your holy and good name. **Amen.**

L: When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

P: As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So, they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

VOCAL SOLO

"There Is a Higher Throne"

Keith and Krysten Getty

Sherry Gerhartz, Soloist

SERMON:

"WHAT KIND OF JESUS DO YOU WANT?"

Pastor Clarissa

~EASTER COMMUNION~

L: Dear Friends in Christ: the night is over! The morning is here!

P: Christ is risen, risen as he said!

L: Sadness has vanished! Tears are no more!

P: Death has fled! Life is victorious!

L: This is the day the Lord has made: (continued on insert)

P: We rejoice! We are glad in it!

L: Come, assemble for the Feast of Life,

P: the Feast of the Kingdom of God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

L: Easter people, come now to the table with Christ!

P: For he is risen! He lives and presides at this Feast!

L: Come, eat together the Bread of Life!

P: For he is risen, and nothing separates us from God's love!

L: Come, drink together from the Cup of Gladness!

P: For Christ is risen! Risen as he said! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

L: Praise to you, God of glory! You created the universe and all living things. You breathed life into our dust and gave us a paradise. You sought us when we hid ourselves, ashamed of our sin. You made a people for yourself and saved them from oppression. In the fullness of time, your love came also to us in your servant Jesus. He ministered to us, healing, overcoming divisions, welcoming all. He died on the cross of shame. But you vindicated him, giving him a life that is forever new! This is the life he shares with us: a life of justice, mercy, and citizenship in your realm of peace. All your creatures testify to your mighty deeds! They declare your everlasting love! We too proclaim it, as with the angels of heaven:

All: 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!

Pastor: Now, O God, with grateful hearts we remember Jesus. **SILENCE**

Pastor: We remember that he was laid in a borrowed grave. A heavy stone sealed up the tomb. We remember that the women came, early in the morning, on the third day. They did not find him among the dead. We remember that his disciples met him on the road. He opened the Scriptures, explaining everything; and their hearts burned within them. They said to him, 'Stay with us, for it is evening.' So, he went in with them. And while they were at table, he took bread, gave thanks, and broke it for them to share. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew him in the breaking of the bread.

Come, Holy Spirit, bless this bread that earth has given, and human hands have made. Bless also this fruit of the vine, created for our gladness. Make them the food and drink of everlasting life, body surrendered, blood poured out.

As we rejoice in the resurrection, give us love for each other, and make us servants of peace, until your New Realm is revealed, and every creature beholds it. We pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and presides at this table, our host and our feast.

Blessed Trinity, in remembrance of all you have done to save us, we offer ourselves to you in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ has 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, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (Responsively)

L: Where is this Jesus, the one you call Messiah?

P: Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!

L: I do not see him. I don't believe you.

P: Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!

L: Let me see his body, his hands, and his feet.

P: We are Christ's body; We are Christ's feet.

L: You see the suffering in the world? Where is Jesus now?

P: We are going into the world to be the body of Christ.

L: Let us go together, let us partner with others.

P: For we are the body of Christ: let us share the Good News!

~PRAYERS, JOYS & CONCERNS~

Pastor: Lord in your mercy:

People: hear our prayer.

~PASTORAL PRAYER~

Pastor: Risen Lord, we have seen the empty tomb, and yet we sometimes act as if we have seen nothing. Why must we continue in fear? Why must we be afraid of death even after its defeat? Yes, this is a glorious day of mirth and song, but forgive us when we are quick to forget its Good News. Help us be a people of resurrection not just on this day but all days. Fill our hearts with your resurrection promise of life that we might turn from sin and be renewed. Eliminate from us the fear of sin that we might tell this glad story - that Christ is risen, he is risen, indeed! This we pray in the name of your Risen Son, Jesus Christ. We say together the words of the Lord's Prayer:

All: Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OFFERINGS~

***DOXOLOGY: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94**

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!

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

All: God of the victory of life over death; on this glorious Easter Sunday, we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Just as the women encountered the empty tomb and the angelic message of new life, we too encounter the living Christ in our hearts and lives. As we come to present our tithes and offerings, may they be an affirmation of our search for the risen Christ, the one who challenges us to see beyond our own expectations. Bless our giving and help us discover the transformative power of the living Jesus in our lives. In the holy name of our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: "Here I Am Lord" UMH 593**

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

L: Because the tomb is empty, your life can be full, so go into every place and every day as people brimming with the love of God. Be graceful in spirit, hopeful in word, faithful in deed. Live for the risen Christ as Christ lives in you.

P: Alleluia and Amen!

Pastor: Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine. When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

***POSTLUDE: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" Arr. James Mansfield**

Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the lounge.