



# First United Methodist Church Graham, NC

[www.fumcgraham-nc.org](http://www.fumcgraham-nc.org)

303 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

336/226-4343

***Easter Sunday***

***April 5, 2026***



## **Our Mission**

*To make disciples for Jesus Christ through love and service*

## **Our Vision**

*A loving and diverse community meeting the real needs of our neighbors through spirit-filled worship, intergenerational discipleship, and caring service*

# ***Come, Let Us Worship the Lord***

*Easter Sunday*

*April 5, 2026*

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## ***Gathering***

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Easter Rejoicing*

arr. Helman

Praise Ringers

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, Christ is risen! God is doing a new thing!

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

Life has conquered death! Love has overcome fear!

**Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!**

†OPENING HYMN

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

(UMH #302)\*

with Praise Ringers

1. 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!
2. 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!
3. 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!
4. 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!

## †SHARING THE PEACE

*Please greet your neighbor and pass the Connect pads to register your attendance.*

## ***Proclamation***

### SHARING FAITH WITH ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Chris Fulkerson

*Childcare is available for children aged 5 and under in Room 121. Red drawstring "Worship Kid Kits" with children's bulletins are available in the entrance area each week for children to use throughout worship.*

### ANTHEM

(Choir and Congregation)

*Come, Christians, Greet the Day*

arr. Harlan

JJ Kelley, piano primo

Come, Christians, greet the day, Alleluia! Amen!

The stone is rolled away, Alleluia! Amen!

Lift high your voice in praise,

for Christ is raised this day!

Our song of triumph raise: Alleluia! Amen!

He lives, no more to die, Alleluia! Amen!

He reigns, enthroned on high, Alleluia! Amen!

Lift up our glorious King;

death, where now is thy sting?

Let all creation sing: Alleluia! Amen!

(Congregation Join)

**Dawn has brought us His light, Alleluia! Amen!**

**Christ now has won the fight, Alleluia! Amen!**

**With joy we now proclaim**

**to Christ, the Lamb once slain;**

**salvation is His name, "Alleluia! Amen!"**

(Choir) Let all creation sing: "Alleluia! Amen!"

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: through your word, may your Church be filled with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### †SCRIPTURE LESSON

[John 20:1-18](#)

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and

the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON

"The Gardener in the Graveyard"

Pastor Duane

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

## ***Holy Communion***

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, as we come to share in the richness of Your table, we confess our reluctance to share Your blessings. We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry. We cannot drink the cup and forget those who are thirsty. We cannot hear Your words of peace and forget a world at war. We cannot celebrate the feast of Your family and forget our divisions. Put our prosperity at the service of the poor. Put our fullness at the service of the empty. Turn our desire for power into a desire for peace. Heal Your church in every brokenness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH MUSICAL SETTINGS

(TFWS #2257a-d)\*

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.**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord;  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Amen, amen, amen,  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(UMH #895)\*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom com,  
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.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

## ***Sending Forth***

†CLOSING HYMN

*Up from the Grave He Arose*

(UMH #322)\*

1. Low in the grave he lay,  
Jesus my Savior,

waiting the coming day,  
Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose, (he arose)  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; (o'er his foes)  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! (he arose) He arose! (he arose)  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2. Vainly they watch his bed,  
Jesus my Savior;  
vainly they seal the dead,  
Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose, (he arose)  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; (o'er his foes)  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! (he arose) He arose! (he arose)  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

3. Death cannot keep its prey,  
Jesus my Savior;  
he tore the bars away,  
Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose, (he arose)  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; (o'er his foes)  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! (he arose) He arose! (he arose)  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

†THE BLESSING

†CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir and Congregation)

(UMH #898)\*

**Amen, amen, amen.**

†CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

†POSTLUDE

*A Rejoicing*  
Praise Ringers

Sherman

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†Please stand if you are able.

*\*Songbooks are located in pew rack.*