

***PROCLAMATION AND SENDING FORTH.**

One: Go to the world! Go into all the earth! Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth, baptizing as a sign of our rebirth.

All: Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed! !
Alleluia!
Alleluia!

***SENDING FORTH.** **“O Happy Day” vs. 1&2** **UMH 391**

:

**Just join us for a great
Sunrise Breakfast
in the Fellowship Hall.**



FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Ave. West Bend WI 53095

April 17, 2022 @ 7:00 A.M.



On Easter Sunday, the holiest of days in the Christian calendar, many Christians start their morning with an Easter Sunrise service. The ritual celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which speaks to Christianity’s most fundamental belief: The Lord has risen, defeating death and bringing salvation and eternal life to everyone who puts their faith in him. The agony of the cross has been replaced by the ecstasy of the Resurrection. As Paul declared in his first letter to the Corinthians: “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

GREETING.

Pastor: Grace to you from Jesus Christ, who was and is, and is to come. Sisters and brothers, our Savior Jesus Christ has passed from death to life. Hear the word of God: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In the Word was life and the life was the light of all humanity. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE.

Pastor: Eternal God, giver of light and life, bless this new flame that by its radiance and warmth we may respond to your love and grace, and be set free from all that separates us from you and from each other; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE.

Pastor: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. Christ is our light!

Many: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

***EASTER PROCLAMATION.**

One: This our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain. This the night when first you saved our forebears, you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them with dry feet through the sea.

Many: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

One: This the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. Truly blessed, when heaven is wedded to earth, we are reconciled to you!

Many: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

One: May the Morning Star, which never sets, find this flame still burning. Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, Your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Many: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Alleluia! Amen!

One: Lord God, early in the morning, when the world was young, you made life in all its beauty and terror; you gave birth to all that we know: sky and seas; plants and trees; bodies of light in the sky; creatures of the land, water, and air; man and woman.

Many: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Thus, the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so, on the seventh day he rested from all his work.” (Gen. 1:1, 30-2:2)

***TFWS 2255. “In the Silence”**

One: We stand in awe of your creation and give thanks, O Lord.

[A TIME OF SILENCE]

READINGS.

All: Early in the morning, when the world least expected it, a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you had come among us, that you were one of us. The angels proclaimed it, the shepherds heard it, and in obedience worshiped.

Reader: Joseph went up to Bethlehem with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (Excerpts from Luke 2:4-20)

UMH 239. “Silent Night”

One: We stand in awe of your incarnation and give thanks, O Lord.

All: Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars, religious leaders, anxious statesmen, and silent friends, you accepted the penalty for doing good, for being God: You shouldered and suffered the cross, and with the words, “It is finished!” you put an end to our hopeless state of death, giving instead the promise of salvation and life.

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Consider the heart of Christ Jesus: “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Phil. 2:6-8)

UMH 295. “Alas and Did My Savior Bleed”

One: We stand in awe of your sacrifice and give thanks, O Lord.

Reader: Early in the morning, a voice in a guarded graveyard, empty cloths and footsteps in the dew proved that you had risen, that you had come back to those and for those who had forgotten, denied, and destroyed you. God raised Jesus from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. (Acts 2:24, 32) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Pet. 1:3)

TFWS 2043 "Alleluia"

One: We stand in awe of your resurrection and give thanks, O Lord.

All. Early in the morning, the body of believers gather together, one in faith and hope, one in purpose: To believe in and worship you, the one Lord, Jesus Christ, to live forgiven and thankful lives, and to celebrate the victory over death and the promise of eternal life. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 15:57)

UMH 370. "Victory in Jesus"

One: Go, in awe of the creation, incarnation, death, and resurrection of our God and give thanks. For God has raised Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses to the fact.

People: Amen. He is risen!

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM VOWS.

As we celebrate again the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we remember that through these saving acts we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we might rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. We now meet to renew the promises made at our baptism, to affirm our allegiance to Christ and our rejection of all that is evil. Sisters

and Brothers, on this day, when we celebrate the rising of Christ from death, let us gather at the water to celebrate our baptism, which is the sign and seal of our new life in Christ, by saying the promises that were made at our baptism...Do you renounce the spiritual forces of evil?

Many: I renounce the spiritual forces of evil.

One: Do you believe in God?

Many: I believe in God.

ONE: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Many: I believe in Jesus Christ.

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Many: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given us the will to do all these things: Give us the courage and strength to achieve them to the honor and glory of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

~THE LOVE FEAST~

The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the *koinonia* (community, sharing, fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ.

Most Love Feasts include the sharing of food. It is customary not to use communion bread, wine, or grape juice because to do so might confuse the Love Feast with the Lord's Supper. The bread may be a loaf of ordinary bread, crackers, rolls, or a sweet bread baked especially for this service. If a loaf of bread, it may be broken in two or more pieces and then passed from hand to hand as each person breaks off a piece. Crackers, rolls, or slices of bread may be passed in a basket. The beverage has usually been water, but other beverages such as lemonade, tea, or coffee have been used. Early Methodists commonly passed a loving cup with two handles from person to person, but later the water was served in individual glasses. The food is served quietly without interrupting the service.

The Love Feast may also be followed by a full meal, in which persons or families may bring dishes of food for all to share. During the meal there may be informal conversation in Christian fellowship.

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