

Riverside United Methodist Church

The Second Sunday of Easter • April 19, 2020 • 9:30 AM

We gather online to worship in the name of the
+the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit+

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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All: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Processional Hymn

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

UMH 317

1 O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of heaven, the glorious King,
o'er death and hell rose triumphing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 When Thomas first the tidings heard,
how they had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see;
my hands, my feet, I show to thee;
not faithless but believing be."
Alleluia! Alleluia!

8 No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"Thou art my Lord and God," he cried.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

9 How blest are they who have not seen,
and yet whose faith hath constant been,
for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Invocation

UMH 321

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering the Community

THE WORD

Modern Lesson from *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor

The cave in which [Jesus] rose from the dead is long gone, covered over by the huge Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Today visitors stand in line to enter a mausoleum that looks nothing like a hole in the ground. This may be just as well, since no one knows for sure what happened there. By all accounts, a stone blocked the entrance to the cave so that there were no witnesses to the resurrection. Everyone who saw the risen Jesus saw him *after*. Whatever happened in the cave happened in the dark. As many years as I have been listening to Easter sermons, I have never heard anyone talk about that part. Resurrection is always announced with Easter lilies, the sound of trumpets, bright streaming light. But it did not happen that way. If it happened in a cave, it happened in complete silence, in absolute darkness, with the smell of damp stone and dug earth in the air. ...new life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark.

Pastoral Prayer

Easter Alleluia

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

TFWS 2026

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Gospel Reading John 20:24-31

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, O God.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

One: This is the Gospel of New Life.

All: All praise to Christ!

Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

TFWS 2026

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

These Things Did Thomas Count as Real

KEDRON

1 These things did Thomas count as real:
the warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
the grain of wood, the heft of stone,
the last frail twitch of blood and bone.

2 The vision of his skeptic mind
was keen enough to make him blind
to any unexpected act
too large his small world of fact.

3 His reasons certainties denied
that one could live when one had died,
until his fingers read like Braille
the markings of the spear and nail.

4 May we, O God, by grace believe
and thus the risen Christ receive,
whose raw imprinted hands reached out
and beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

The Great Thanksgiving for Easter Sunday

One: Lift up your heads

All: **We lift them up to God**

One: Lift up your hearts

All: **We lift them up to the Lord**

One: Lift up your hands

All: **We dedicate our heads, our hearts, and our hands to the worship of God.**

We offer our entire being to the God of Creation, who made the sun and the moon to govern by day and by night and hung the stars in the sky. We offer our entire being to the great God who hollowed out the valleys and bulged up the mountains, who spat out the seven seas, and populated the world with glorious creatures. Blessed be the name of the Lord who created us and fashioned us from the dust and breathed into us the breath of life.

And so we praise you and bless you, Creator God, joining our voices in the ancient hymn of all creation:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who came to us in spite of our destructive ways. He healed the sick, raised the dead and cast out demons. In the brief time that he was with us, Jesus sided with the oppressed, had compassion for those who suffer, and gave dignity to women and children. He taught us in word and deed about a God we had been unable to understand.

In spite of his glory-revealing presence among us, we turned him into a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. Jesus was persecuted by certain religious leaders and betrayed by one of his own. He was lied about, tortured, and hung on a cross to die.

Yet, even on the day of his crucifixion, Jesus continued to teach those who would listen. When evil people came with his betrayer, Jesus did not respond with violence, choosing instead to remind us that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. When he was falsely accused and condemned to death, Jesus refused to do harm. And while hanging on the cross, he prayed: "God forgive them, for they know not what they do." But we give you thanks that nothing ever was, or ever will be, able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

On the morning of the third day Jesus laughed at death, shed his grave clothes, and walked among us alive! Forty days later, he ascended into heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of the God of our ancestors. Our eyes are turned toward the skies looking for the day when Jesus shall return to a kingdom without end, where the lion will lie down peaceably with the lamb, where sickness and disease are not known where the wicked will cease from troubling and we will study war no more!

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he shared a meal with his disciples. He took bread from the table, gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was over he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my lifeblood 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."

Today, Jesus, we remember the bread and the cup. Today, we remember your life and your death. We remember your resurrection; we remember eternal life. As we receive these gifts in praise and thanksgiving we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Holy God, pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine; make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. Wonder-working God, pour out your Spirit upon us; as we offer ourselves to be God's presence in the world until Jesus returns in glory.

One: Almighty God, We your people cry out to you on behalf of our community:
Have mercy upon all who suffer from the evils of poverty.

All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.

One: Have mercy upon all who have lost their way.

All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.

One: Have mercy upon all who have been offended by the church.

All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.

One: Have mercy upon all who feel forgotten and neglected.

All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.

Amen, amen, amen!

Amen, amen, amen!

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

The Lord's Prayer

setting by Mark Miller

Our God, in heaven, holy is your name.
Your reign come.
Your will done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and help us forgive as we have been forgiven.
In the time of trial, lead us into life.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Holy is your name.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn during Communion

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

TFWS 2196

1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.

2 We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
but in his promise, we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found.

4 And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

SENDING

Closing Hymn

Thine Be the Glory

UMH 308

1 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.

R Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

2 Lo! Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. R

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. R

**Benediction

Sending Music