

# Riverside United Methodist Church

The Resurrection of the Lord • April 12, 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

*Promenade from Pictures at an Exhibition*

M. Mussorgsky (1839-81)

### Call to Worship

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### Processional Hymn

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

UMH 280

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!

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!  
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!  
Hail the resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

6 King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!  
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!  
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!  
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

Almighty God, through Jesus Christ you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we, who celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection, may, by the renewing of your Spirit arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Gathering the Community

### THE WORD

#### Modern Lesson from *Unbelievable* by John Shelby Spong

Resurrection, I now believe, was not a physical act. No formerly deceased body ever walked out of any tomb, leaving it empty to take up a previous life in the world. For Paul and for the other early Christians to whom Paul says Jesus "appeared," resurrection was, rather, a moment of new revelation that occurred when survival-driven humanity could transcend that limit and give itself away in love to others, including even to those who wish to do us evil. This was the experience in which a new "seeing" of both God and life was born. Was this experience great enough to be called resurrection? I submit that it was. That experience suggested that God and human life can flow together. It persuaded "believers" that every limit on our humanity can be broken. *That* is what those early Christians meant when they said, "Jesus lives. We have seen the Lord!" That same resurrection experience must now change the way we understand God and even the way we understand worship. Resurrection, understood as Paul and the early Christians experienced it, is an ongoing and life-reordering process, not an event that happened once in history a long time ago. "The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed." This ancient salute that greeted Easter day did not mean that Jesus had been raised back into the life of human limitations, but that he opened to us access into the meaning of God, as the power to free us to live, to love and to be. How badly we have misunderstood the message of Easter! How limited has been our vision of resurrection! The last enemy to be destroyed is death; and with its destruction, we learn that God is one and all of us are part of that oneness.

#### Pastoral Prayer

#### *This Easter Celebration*

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

1 This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.  
We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.  
We're distant from our neighbors—from worship leaders, too.  
No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

2 No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.  
O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day?  
With sanctuaries empty, many homes become the place  
we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

3 Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room  
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.  
Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see—  
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

4 In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:  
Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.  
Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!  
Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

5 We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be  
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry. I  
n homes and in the places of help and healing, too,  
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

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

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 28:1-10

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

**All: Glory to you, O God.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 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." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

One: This is the Gospel of New Life.

**All: All praise to Christ!**

**Response***Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

TFWS 2091

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

**Sermon***A Worthy World Saved*

Rev. Keith A. Turner

**THE EUCHARIST****Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings****Offertory***In the Garden*

Julia Pittenger, organ  
 Daniel Kuhn, piano

**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.

*Early* 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

*Christ Is Risen*

UMH 307

1 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!  
Celebrate this day of days.  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder;  
all creation is amazed.  
In the desert all-surrounding,  
see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding  
bring a taste of love unknown.

2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits  
from the caverns of despair.  
Walk with gladness in the morning.  
See what love can do and dare.  
Drink the wine of resurrection,  
not a servant, but a friend;  
Jesus is our strong companion.  
Joy and peace shall never end.

3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven  
nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation  
where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:  
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"  
God the First and Last is with us.  
Sing Hosanna everyone!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

## SENDING

### Closing Hymn

### *Walk On, O People of God*

UMH 305

#### *Refrain:*

Walk on, O people of God; walk on, O people of God!  
A new law, God's new alliance, all creation is reborn.  
Walk on, O people of God; walk on, O people of God!

1 Look to Calvary's summit; on the rock there towers a cross;  
death that gives birth to new living, a new people, a new light.  
Christ has brought us salvation with his death and rising again.  
Everything comes to new birthing, all creation is reborn. **R**

2 Christ takes into his body all our sin, enslavement, and pain;  
as he destroys them he brings us life's abundance, life's new joy.  
Christ brings reconciliation to all things and people with God.  
Nature bursts into new flowering, all creation is reborn. **R**

3 Heaven and earth are embracing, and our souls find pardon at last.  
Now heaven's gates are reopened to the sinner, to us all.  
Israel walks a journey; now we live, salvation's our song;  
Christ's resurrection has freed us. There are new worlds to explore. **R**

### **\*\*Benediction**

### **Sending Music**