



Faith United Methodist Church  
6810 Montrose Road, Rockville, Maryland 20852

## EASTER SUNDAY

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunrise, 6:30 a.m.



# He LIVES!



### WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

GATHERING MUSIC                      *At Eastertide, Op. 182, No. 3*                      Charles Villiers Stanford  
Transcription: Michael Wu  
Instrumental String Quintet: Sally McLain and Nathan Wisniewski, violin; Mary Dausch, viola;  
Stephen Czarkowski, cello; Neil Brown, trumpet.

## GREETING

This morning, this joyous morning, we journey to the tomb with Mary Magdalene and discover the stone is rolled away. An empty grave remains to prove my Savior lives. With joy, we discover that Christ Jesus has risen. Come, let offer praise and thanks to God for fulfilling the resurrection promise.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ has risen!

**Christ has risen indeed.**

Faith, hope, and joy are alive.

**A new age is dawning, and death cannot harm us.**

God of all creation, we praise you.

**God of resurrection and eternal life, we have gathered in this garden to worship you and celebrate your victory.**

## GATHERING PRAYER

**Loving God, we gather in the early morning of your Resurrection. We have been mourning and weeping believing that you have been taken from us. Instead, you meet us in the garden of new life. Here, in this sacred place, we discover that you are alive, that sin and death cannot defeat you. Now our tears of sorrow turn to tears of joy as we experience your presence among us. Today, we begin to understand that joy comes from grief. You call us to go into the world to share this good news, and because we are not left alone, we can pray your prayer.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD AND FAITHFULLY RESPOND

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### SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-18

### MEDITATION

What is it about a Garden?

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

### HYMN OF FAITH

*Morning Has Broken*

UMH #145

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931 (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Music: Traditional Gaelic melody

Harmony: Carlton R. young, 1988

### COMMUNION

#### HYMN

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

UMH #302

Verses 1 and 2

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739

Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708

#### CLOSING PRAYER (UNISON)

Lord, we have so much to be thankful for this Easter morning. In the chill of the morning air, we do feel the warm blessing of your Spirit. We can rejoice this day because our tendency toward disbelief is overcome by our capacity for faith. We are truly amazed that a cross of crucifixion has been transformed into a symbol of new life, a symbol of eternal life.

**We are thankful that you come to greet us in a garden of hope, trust, and faith. We thank you that a dark and empty tomb has emerged into a garden of light and living. In all our days, we live for Christ, the resurrected and risen Savior. Amen.**

## WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

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### BENEDICTION

The tomb is empty,  
Christ has risen.

As you journey in faith,  
may your life be full,  
your love be abundant,  
and your hope be eternal.

Live this day and always for Christ Jesus  
because the Risen Christ lives in you.

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

### POSTLUDE

*Hallelujah Chorus (Messiah)*

G.F. Handel

Bob Holder, Organist

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## RESURRECTION!

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, “They took the Master from the tomb. We don’t know where they’ve put him.”

Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn’t go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of

where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?"

"They took my Master," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him.

Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?"

She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Mister, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him."

Jesus said, "Mary."

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" meaning "Teacher!"

Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: "I saw the Master!" And she told them everything he said to her.

## **MORNING HAS BROKEN (UMH #145)**

1. Morning has broken like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

## **CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY (UMH #302)**

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!