

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

Prelude

Easter

No. 1 *Five Mystical Songs*

Tenor/David Potts

Music - R. Vaughan Williams

Poem - George Herbert

*Easter Proclamation

Pastor: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

Pastor: Christ is our strength and our power!

All: Christ has become our salvation!

Pastor: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Christ is risen!

All: Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ is risen! Alleluia!

*Procession

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

UMH 302

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!
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!
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!
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!
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!

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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!

*Prayer of Lighting the Paschal Candle (*unison*)

God of life, through Jesus Christ you have bestowed upon the world the light of life. Sanctify this new fire, and grant that our hearts and minds may also be kindled with holy desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Lighting of the Paschal Candle (*Pastor lights the Paschal Candle*)

One: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

Many: Christ is our light!

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (*Ecumenical Version*)

UMH 882

Assurance

One: Sisters and Brothers, this is the good news: the grave is empty, Christ is risen!

Many: Hallelujah!

One: This is the good news: the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

Many: Hallelujah!

One: This is the good news: once we were no people, now we are God's people.

Many: Hallelujah!

One: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

Many: Hallelujah!

*Praise Songs

Osee Praise

Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Praise the almighty God!

He is worthy of our praise! Oh...

He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...

He is worthy of our praise! Halleluyah!

Osee Yee Praise Him Halleluyah!...

He is worthy of our praise! Oh...

He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...

Praise, O' Praise, My God and King

Praise, O praise, my God and King.

Hymns of adoration, sing;

For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful, ever sure ...

Alleluia, Alleluia!

King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful ever sure...

Children's Singing

Children's Conversation

Announcement

Prayers of the People

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

TFWS 2157

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Allelulia!

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

I will make noise – MÈ yÈ Dede

James Verrick Armaah

I give you thanks

I give you praise

Lord, how can I thank you for all that you have done

I will mention your name to all nations that you are my God

Your compassion is so great towards your children.

When I look at what God has done for me, I Stand on the Holy Mount of Calvary,

I will sing everyday and I will shout everyday for you Jesus.

Compassionate God, I will always sing for you

Lord it is by your Grace that I am still alive, I stand on the Holy Mount of Calvary and when I look at all that the Lord has done for me, I will sing everyday and I will shout everyday for you.

With joy, I will sing, I will extol, I will shout Halleluia , Halleluia, Amen.

Amen, Halleluia, Halleluia, Amen.

With joy, I will sing, I will extol, I will shout Halleluia, Halleluia, Amen

Amen, Halleluia, Halleluia, Amen.

*Doxology

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

*Passing of Peace

“Shalom”

Mensah Essilfie

God’s peace be unto you,

We wish you Shalom!

The peace of God which transcends all understanding be with you forevermore.

*Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18

Anthem

Hallelujah! Resurrection Day!

Larry Shackley cf. 20th C.

Come, see the place where Jesus lay, angels have rolled the stone away!

Sing hallelujah! Resurrection day!

Tell me, O death, where is your sting? You cannot hold the risen King!

Sing hallelujah! Resurrection day!

Down to the tomb the Savior had gone, but Sunday morning there came a new dawn.

God’s mighty angel, at break of day, came to the gravestone and rolled it away.

The angel told Mary, “Shake off your fear! Jesus is risen, He is not here!”

“Tell His disciples He’s no longer dead, just as He promised, just as He said.”

He arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever with His saints to reign.

(The Congregation is invited to come to the altar steps during the last verse of the closing hymn.)

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
and just the time I need him, he's always near.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see his loving care,
and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;
the day of his appearing will come at last.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
eternal halleluiahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;
none other is so loving, so good and kind.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

*Benediction

*Response

“Hallelujah” from *Messiah*

George Frederic Handel

Postlude

French Horn/Chloe Nester Sundberg

“Cavatina”

Vladimir Bakaleinikoff

Worship Leaders: Gifty Bentum-Asante, Judith Barton, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, Debbie O’Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Chloe Sundberg, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Prayer of Lighting the Paschal Candle – *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 371.
Assurance – *Worship & Song: Worship Resources*, Abingdon Press, 2011, 33.
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