

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833
April 12, 2020

Resurrection Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling
Music Director: Dr. Harry Dunstan
Internet Technician: Brandon Savage

Welcome to worship!

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,
—you are welcome here.*

*The Mission of the People of Salem United Methodist Church
is to grow in Christian faith and express God's love to all.*

The Resurrection Reading—Matthew 28:1–10 (New Revised Standard Version)

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 worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.

Special Music—“Easter”

(Poem from George Herbert's Easter, Music by Ralph Vaughn Williams)

Sung by Harry Dunstan, Accompanied by Kay Krekow

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen.
Sing his praise without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand,
that thou likewise with him may'st rise;
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more, just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part with all thy art.
The crosse taught all wood to resound his name,
who bore the same.
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key
Is the best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song pleasant and long;
Or since all musick is but three parts vied and multiplied.
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

Call to Worship—(L: Leader; P: People)

L: Like the women who went to the tomb, this day is one of sorrow.

P: We lament that we cannot gather today to celebrate the Risen Lord.

L: Like the women who went to the tomb, this day is one of fear.

P: How can we sing our, “Alleluias,” with an unseen and deadly virus floating around us?

L: To the women who went to the tomb, the angel said, “Do not be Afraid!” And Jesus said, “Do not be afraid!”

P: Risen Lord, grant us your mercy in the midst of our fears. In the midst of our sorrows and laments, transform our hollow “Alleluias” into joyful ones. Instill again the delight of shouting, “He is risen. He is risen, indeed!” Amen.

A Resurrection Song—“Up From the Grave He Arose”

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain: Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! (Refrain)

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! (Refrain)

Welcome

Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

Risen Christ, we praise you for the new life made evident in the blossoms of spring. We give thanks for your love that endures forever. We thank you that even though we are separated during this uncertain time and may be distressed about the future, your love continues to bless us. We thank you for all who are working together to save people from this virus, for all who are researching methods of treatment and searching for a cure. Give them the knowledge they need to find a way. We give you thanks for all who are providing us with food: the farmers, distributors, and grocery stores. And we thank you that through the gift of technology we can connect to friends and family, near and far. As each day brings new challenges, breath into us your healing spirit. Transform our brokenness and soothe our fears. Continue to be present with us in our homes as we gather separately, yet together, and every day. Amen.

A New Easter Song—"This Easter Celebration"

(Sung to: "The Church's One Foundation")

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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.

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, may homes become the place
we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

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.

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.

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

Epistle Lesson—Acts 10:34-43 (Common English Bible)

Peter said, “I really am learning that God doesn’t show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Witness to the Word—The Most Important Act

Time of Reflection

Celebrating the Love Feast

Risen Christ, in the midst of sorrow and fear, help us choose joy and gratitude. So we thank you that wherever we are, you are with us. We praise you that in with you we have new life. By your Spirit, bless us. Thank you for being with us as we share in this love feast. Amen.

Offerings

Thank you for mailing in your offerings. Please continue to do so. Or if you haven't yet done so, please consider mailing your offerings to Salem United Methodist Church, 12 High St., Brookeville, MD 20833.

Offertory—My Lord What a Morning (Dr. Harry Dunstan)

Closing Song—"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

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!

Sending Forth Blessing

Postlude-Music after Worship—"Crown Him with Many Crowns" (Dr. Harry Dunstan)