

# Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

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*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.*

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

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Prelude I Know That My Redeemer Liveth G. F. Handel

\* Easter Proclamation

Pastor: Christ is risen!

**Congregation: Christ is risen indeed!**

Pastor: Christ is our strength and our power!

**Congregation: Christ has become our salvation!**

Pastor: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Christ is risen!

**Congregation: 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 our Lord. 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

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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...

Prayers of the People

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

TFWS 2200

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

I will make noise – ME yE 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  
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! Amen!

\*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

Christ the Lord is Risen Again!

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Christ the Lord is risen again!  
Christ hath broken every chain!  
Hark, the angels shout for joy,  
Singing evermore on high,  
Alleluia!

He who gave for us his life,  
Who for us endured the strife,  
Is our Paschal Lamb today!  
We too sing for joy and say  
Alleluia!

He who bore all pain and loss  
Comfortless upon the cross,  
Lives in glory now on high,  
Pleads for us, and hears our cry.  
Alleluia!

Now he bids us tell abroad  
How the lost may be restored,  
How the penitent forgiven,  
How we too may enter heaven.  
Alleluia!

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed  
Christ, today thy people freed;  
Take our sins and guilt away,  
That we all may sing for ay,  
Alleluia!

Message

Announcement

Children’s Time

*(For Hallelujah chorus, congregation is invited to come to the altar steps (not the chancel steps) during the last verse of the closing hymn, so as to be in place for the Benediction.)*

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 live? 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 live? 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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
Trumpet Tune on LOBE DEN HERREN

David Lasky

Worship Leaders: Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis,  
Joseph Fletcher, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, Mark Muncey, Debbie O’Driscoll, David Potts,  
Jennifer Quansah, 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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