

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

“EASTER SUNDAY”

April 9th, 2023

Dallas United Methodist Church

Liturgical Color – White

TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION

“The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.”

- John 1:5 (The Message)

* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

My Redeemer Lives

Handbell Choir

arr. by William E. Moats

CALL TO WORSHIP

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and blessing!

**Blessing and honor and glory and power
be to the One seated on the throne
and to the Lamb forever and ever!**

* *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

302 (verses 1, 2, 3)

* *Up from the Grave he Arose*

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* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we don't always recognize Christ,
even when we are looking directly at your Incarnate Love.
We cling to our assumptions about how life on earth should unfold,
forgetting that life in your realm shatters those expectations.

Forgive us when we go through our daily routine,
forgetting to look for the Risen One.
Forgive us when coming to worship is more about seeing our friends
than it is about encountering you and our Resurrected Lord.

Open our eyes and our hearts, O God,
to the full awareness of your presence with us,
in each and every moment of our lives.
We pray in the name of the Christ who is alive!
Alleluia and Amen.

* WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

by Ed Baker

I believe in the resurrection.
I believe that Jesus died on the cross,
his hands and feet held to the wood by metal spikes.
I believe that his body was pierced by the soldier's spear,
and even the sun was darkened
as all creation grieved the death of God's eternal Son.

I believe in the resurrection.
I believe that Jesus' body was placed in a borrowed tomb,
where it lay for three days.
I believe that the power of God, his heavenly Father,
brought life to his dead body
and rolled the stone away from the entrance
so all might see that Jesus was no longer there.

I believe in the resurrection.
I believe that the unbelievable story of the women was true,
just as the angel had announced:
“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.”

I believe in the resurrection.
I believe that there is no force in the universe
that could stop, hinder, contain, or successfully oppose
the risen Savior, my Lord, Jesus Christ.
No nails are long enough to hold him to any cross
unless he wills it to be so.
No tomb can be sealed so tightly—
by Pilate or Herod, or Caesar himself.
Were there an army of a thousand men guarding the tomb,
it would make no difference.
Jesus said he would lay down his life and take it up again.
And he did.

I believe in the resurrection.
I believe that Jesus appeared to eleven discouraged, defeated,
demoralized disciples in a room where the doors were locked
and all hope was lost.
I believe that when he showed them
his nail-pierced hands and his spear-pierced side,
they fell at his feet and cried out,
“My Lord and my God!”
I believe that in the days that followed, hundreds saw him alive.
All their doubt was removed; their fear was gone.
What could the world do to them? Jesus was alive.

I believe in the resurrection.
I believe that Jesus lives today—
as powerfully and perfectly alive as he was two thousand years ago,
and for all time past and yet to come.

I believe he empowers his followers to follow in his footsteps,
fight the forces of evil,
and find their peace and joy and eternal hope in him.

I believe in the resurrection.
I believe that Jesus calls women, men, and children
to join him in changing the world, one heart and life at a time,
starting with their own.
One day soon, he will come again on the clouds of heaven
with an army of celestial warriors whose numbers are beyond counting
and whose power is beyond imagining.
Then Jesus will establish his eternal kingdom,
where there will be no more soldiers or spears
or sepulchers or battles or bleeding wounds or crosses.
I believe all this because I believe in the resurrection.

** Glory Be to the Father*

70

CHILDREN'S CHAT

TIME OF PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER / THREE-FOLD AMEN

(from the ritual of the former Methodist Church)

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SPECIAL SELECTION

Choir

GOD'S WORD FOR US:

John 20:1-18

(The Liturgist says: "This is the Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... the People respond: "Thanks BE to God")

Christo Vive (Christ Is Risen)

313 (tune # 707 - Hymn of Promise)

TODAY'S MESSAGE: **"GOD DOES HIS BEST WORK WHEN THINGS ARE DARK"**

* *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

302 (verses 4, 5, 6)

* BENEDICTION

by Bruce Prewer

If the God who raised Jesus from the dead is for us, who dare be against us?

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Step out into the world in humble confidence:

there is nothing about to happen that God has not foreseen,
and no situation where Christ will not be there ahead of you,
preparing a place and an opportunity for you.

Thanks be to God.

May the peace of God, which goes beyond all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge of God, and of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

And the blessing of God all-loving,
the Creator, Redeemer and Counsellor,
will be with you now and always.

Amen!

* *He Lives*

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BLOOD DRIVE ... Our next RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be **Thursday, April 27th, from 1:00 PM until 5:30 PM.** If you are able, please donate here. You can schedule your appointment online at www.redcross.org/give-blood . If you can volunteer to help welcome donors or help with the canteen, please contact our church office.