



*He is risen;
he is not here.* MARK 16:6

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.” Now I have told you.’”

Matthew 28:5-7

April 5, 2026

6:30 a.m.

GREETING & WELCOME

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP

They were looking for a dead friend,

Mourning a loss,

Caught up in grief,

Worrying about stone-cold tombs.

They were prepared for death,

But not for life.

They were ready for sadness,

But not for joy.

Yet, Easter turned it around!

Turned the world upside down,

Set love on the throne,

Hope on the horizon,

Joy in each moment.

Easter still turns darkness around,

Makes our lives different,

Renews our hope,

Fills us with courage,

Gives us a song to sing.

THE PASCHAL CANDLE IS LIT

EASTER PRAYER

Each dawn proclaims resurrection.

Every sunrise tells of a new beginning, and all creation sings for joy.

From the start of time, Divine Creator, you painted each day with light,

fashioned beauty from mountain heights to valley lows,

and caused praise to whistle through trees and splash on seashores.

When we took to hurrying through beauty, bruising each other

and taking blessings for granted, you sent Jesus to open our eyes

to the new dawn and stir our dreams to a new beginning.

Easter is our second chance, our try-once-more.

**Holy and loving are you, O God, for each dawn is a resurrection gift,
a possibility to deepen relationships, forgive ourselves and those near to us,
make peace and share love.
Every sunrise rolls back the stone of doubt and lets the alleluia loose.
Wondrous and great are you, O God.**

PRAISE HYMN (TFWS 2115)

"Christ Has Risen"
See insert

Bell/Moore

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 28:1-10

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Now the Green Blade Riseth" J.M.C. Crum/trad. French carol
Sharon Keeler, vocalist

MESSAGE

"A New Start"

Rev. Mary Browne

OFFERING PRAYER

**God of New Beginnings, you roll away more than stones.
You roll away despair and doubt, fear and failure.
On this Resurrection morning, we offer our gifts in gratitude
for the new life we have found in Christ.
Let these offerings be signs of our commitment to live differently --
eyes open, hearts awakened, hands ready to serve.
May what we give today help announce to the world that hope is alive,
love has triumphed, and joy cannot be contained.
Use us and what we offer to keep telling the story: Christ is risen, indeed!
Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All-knowing, all-powerful God, we confess that, even on this most holy day,
we sometimes struggle to believe in the victory over death shown to us
in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
We confess our utter dependence on you not only for life but also
for faith, hope, and love.
Without your astonishing appearance to our ancestors and
your stunning presence throughout the ages, we would be lost.
Forgive and transform us, that in every way our work and prayer
will make whole what is broken and give peace on earth. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors, the good news of Jesus'
resurrection is our rock and our salvation.
You shall not die but live.
The rejected cornerstone has become your strength and your song.

Beloved, believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

...and forgive us our trespasses...

BREAKING THE BREAD

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We praise you, O God, and give you thanks that you have given us such joy,
such grace, and such hope, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Let our lives be proof of that good news.

**Let all our words and actions, our love and service bear witness
to your resurrection power;**

for the sake of our living LORD, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Christ the Lord Has Risen Today"

Sharon Keeler, Vocalist

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Sisters and brothers of the risen Christ,

Clothe yourselves with gladness.

Dance an alleluia jig.

Sing a resurrection song.

Let everyone know that Christ is alive, and joy resides in your hearts.

May God's abiding love and hope give us new life.

May God's unmerited grace and mercy keep us hope-filled.

And may God's restorative justice bring to us all, perfect peace.

For Steadfast Love is risen!

Steadfast Love is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Amen.

All are invited to the Christian Life Center to share fellowship
and enjoy a light breakfast.

All our Members, Ministers

Rev. Mary H. Browne, Senior Pastor

Mr. Calvin Keeler, Jr. Worship Leader

Mrs. Sharon Keeler, Vocalist

Mrs. Donna Dennis, Communion Steward

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