

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Services Canceled
Online Only
Easter Day – Resurrection of the Lord

Apr 12, 2020

Sunday Morning Prayer

Dear Lord, may I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection means for me. Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Prayer List

Linda A	Donna F	Peggy P
Cathy B	Bob G	Ellen P
Tubby B	Jean G	River T
Joel C	Mike L	Unspoken Request
Mel C	Joan M	
<i>HealthCare Professionals</i>		
Kera F	Nancy P	Emma & Cory W
Elizabeth Y	Tyler P	Many others...

Call to Worship

We come to this place,
seeking Jesus in the familiar story of our faith.

**Do not meet us only here, O Living Christ,
but surprise us with Resurrection power
in all the places of our lives!**

We gather together to sing and pray the story we know by heart,
a story of loving triumph and powerful grace.

**This story of “Alleluia!” means great joy
for the One who lives and the ones who witness to this new life
in all the places of our lives!**

We rejoice and thank you for the life of your son,
resurrected by the power of your loving, vibrant Spirit.

**Let this same Spirit fill all the places of our lives,
that we may know the truth
of resurrection for the rest of our lives!**

We join our hearts in song and sing
“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!”
for Christ is living and so are we!

Alleluia indeed!

Opening Hymn *“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uV0aaKjrj7M>

Gathering Prayer

Good News God,

**your angels appeared to the faithful women of Jesus’ company,
bringing them news more wonderful and awe-inspiring than they could imagine**

Christ is Risen!

Surely your angels can interrupt our lives, too,

**breaking into our losses and sorrows
and offering a message of tremendous joy to change our lives!**

Come this Easter morning, we pray,

**and fill us with the joy of the women disciples,
the first witnesses to your resurrection,
that our lives may also be renewed in hope and glory.**

Let us roll back the stone of the grave

and sing Alleluia once again!

In Christ we pray, **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

God, we confess to you

that while we know well the story of your victory over the grave,
it is not a story we always live.

We are dragged down by all manner of death –
Fear may suffocate us: the loss of dreams and hopes
for ourselves, our families, our communities and our nation.
Sorrow may wall us off like a grave,
isolating us with anger, frustration, and grief.

Silent Reflection

Yet the stories of our faith are inscribed
not with the marks of death,
but with the word, “Alleluia!”
So on this Easter morning,
we pray that you will fill us with “fear and great joy”
so that, like those women who came to the tomb expecting death,
we may instead find the radiant new life
that is ever before us in your Resurrection! **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Just as Christ did not come to condemn but to liberate,
so too is Christ raised from death not to judge but to celebrate.
Cast off the yoke of sorrow and instead raise up the scepter of joy –
Christ lives! We live!
All is made new on this Resurrection morning!
Alleluia and amen!

First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹ “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² 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. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Meditation Hymn

“Christ Arose”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eStXRCg9IBk>

The Reading of the Holy Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10 NIV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH # 497

Jesus Has Risen

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ 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.”

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.
Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gloria Patri

TH # 493

Children’s Message

See the Children’s Bulletin titled ‘*Jesus is Risen*’

Today’s Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yuwv6sqxEhk>

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended

into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sung Response *"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"* TH # 501

Closing Hymn *"Because He Lives"*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm2wLKZoGPY>

Benediction

Do not look for the risen Jesus in the confines of a church building.

**We will seek the risen Jesus on the roads and in the streets,
in all the pathways and byways of our lives.**

Do not seek comfort in the familiar, but dare to risk the unfamiliar –

We know that Resurrection makes all things new!

Do not cling to all the old, expected notions about God, Jesus, Spirit, but go forth and celebrate this truly new Good News:

Because Christ lives, new possibilities are ever before us!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Alleluia!

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and until the end of eternity. **Amen.**

Three-Fold Amen TH # 558



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Alleluia! in All the Places of our Lives! Service Prayers for Easter Day was written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dille, Minister and Team Leader for MESA (Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization), UCC.



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