

# Easter Celebration Worship

April 20, 2014 – Easter Sunday

11:00 a.m.

*A special welcome to today's guests!*

*We pray that you will feel God's love and peace, and will join us again next week.*

*\*Please stand if able.*

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude

*God So Loved the World*  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Stainer

## Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen today!

**People: Christ is risen, indeed!**

Leader: The tomb could not hold him.

**People: The grave is empty. Christ is risen!**

Leader: Humanity's sin could not condemn him.

**People: He shattered sin's power over us. Christ is risen!**

Leader: Death could not contain him.

**People: He conquered death for all eternity. Christ is risen!**

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen today!

**People: Christ is risen, indeed!**

All: Alleluia!

"Resurrection"

\*Hymn *Christ the Lord is Risen Today (vss. 1-4)*

UMH #302

\*Centering Prayer

**Mighty God: By your power you raised your Son, our Lord Jesus, from death. By his glorious resurrection, you proved him victor over death; and you assured all of us, who acknowledge him as Savior and Lord, that we do not need to fear death, either. With grateful hearts we welcome another Easter day, joyously repeating the ancient Christian greeting: "Christ is risen!" "He is risen indeed!" Accept now, we pray, our homage for the forgiveness and the promise of newness, in this life and beyond, which in your amazing grace, you extend to us, through him. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

UMH #327

Children's Message

Psalter Reading

**Psalms 150**

UMH pg. 862

Special Music

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*  
*Carillon Bells*

arr. Kinyon

Ministry of the Word

Acts 10:34-43 (New Living Translation)

\*Hymn of Preparation *Up From the Grave He Arose*

UMH #322

\*Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18 (The Message)

Sermon

*Your Defining Story*

Rev. Denise Bates

\*Hymn of Response *He Lives*

UMH #310

Offering

*(as forgiven children of God, let us offer to God ourselves and our gifts)*

Offertory

*Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners*

arr. David Phelps

*Quartet*

\* Doxology

UMH #94

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious God, as we celebrate the power of the resurrection this day, we ask that you would receive these offerings and gifts that we give joyfully and generously. By the power of your Spirit, multiply them and use them to bring peace, justice, hope and the good news of Jesus Christ to all the world. Amen.**

\*Hymn *Easter People Raise Your Voices*

UMH #304

\*Easter Affirmation

**We believe in an Easter God, who transforms darkness into light, hatred into tolerance, despair into hope.**

**We believe God is always working for good, changing every Good Friday nightmare into an Easter dream of new possibility.**

**We believe in the risen Christ, who befriends us on our roads of searching and worry; who touches us through song and silence, word and gesture; who calls us by name to enter the dance of life.**

**We believe in the Spirit, the hidden presence behind every resurrection, who beckons us to leave tomblife safety and trust the gracious invitation to live joyfully.**

**We believe the Spirit is always renewing the church and making us a people who practice kindness, encourage beauty and work for justice and freedom.**

**We believe we are an Easter people, a sign that with God all things are possible.**

\*Benediction

Leader: Believe! Believe the good news! As you leave this morning, go with a joyful heart, confident of God's grace and love. Proclaim the good news without shame.

**People: Christ is risen!**

**All: Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

Choral Response

*Hallelujah Chorus (from Messiah)*  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Handel

\*Postlude

*Improvisation on Hallelujah*