

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
EASTER SUNDAY

April 4, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of empty tombs and abundant surprises, who announces new life in the face of death, dry our tears of grief and calm the anguish of our losses as we listen for amazing, good news. Help us to find our identity in the person of Jesus Christ. Be to us a living presence, that the story of Easter may become our story, and we can embody its hope for the whole world. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, 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, O grave? 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!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION

We who have doubted, rejected, and turned away are invited to express before God all that keeps us from claiming God's promises and living in peace with our sisters and brothers. Let us pen our hearts and make room for the newness of life Christ offers.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We cannot truly worship You, loving God, until we recognize how unloving we have been. We cannot truly live until we admit the many ways we have been dwelling in death. We cannot know forgiveness until we honestly face the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. We admit before You now the anger and spite we have carried in our hearts, the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us, the misplaced priorities that have led us away from Your will and way. Help us break down the barriers we have erected so we can experience new life today. Hear our prayers of personal confession. ...

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus commanded us to preach and testify, to bear witness to forgiveness of sins. Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures. Let us live therefore, as forgiven and forgiving people.

BELL CHOIR: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say," "He Leadeth Me, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

HOLY SCRIPTURES: John 20:1–18

JOHN 20:1–18

The Empty Tomb

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON: "He IS Alive!"

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER and WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BENEDICTION: The first disciples saw and believed; Let us, like them, carry the message to others. Take the good news of Easter into your everyday world.

CLOSING HYMN: "Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

Alleluia, alleluia, Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross as Savior For the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, Now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born,
Glorious life, and life immortal, On this holy Easter morn;
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer By his mighty enterprise,
We with Him to life eternal By His resurrection rise.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia! to the Savior Who has won the victory;
Alleluia! to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.



Happy Easter!

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