

*Order of Worship*  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF THE EASTER SEASON**  
9:30 am – April 7, 2024

***Participating Live?***

*Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.*

**PRELUDE**

*Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*

Words: John Goss. Song #28262. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream  
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Cathi Peterson, organ

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Fran Turner, liturgist

Creator God, we enter Your sanctuary from a world in Chaos.

**And seek Your stabilizing order.**

We are surrounded by anxiety and turmoil in personal lives,

**And search for Your calming presence.**

We are confronted by injustice and cruelty between people and nations,

**And yearn for Your peaceful resolutions.**

Come, Lord Jesus. Return Your Creation to its original harmony.

**Yes, come Lord Jesus, come.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*Come Christians, Join to Sing*

UMH 158

Words: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843, Public Domain. Music: arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824, Public Domain.

1 Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen! loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!  
let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice; praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen! let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
he is our guide and friend, to us he'll condescend; his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

3 Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen! life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
on heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore, singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SCRIPTURE**

*John 20: 19-31* (NRSV)

Fran Turner, liturgist

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)

**PREPARATION HYMN**

*Spirit of the Living God*

UMH 393

CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / CCLI Song # 23488

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.

**MESSAGE**

*“And You Think You Had a Strange Week”*

Rev. Varre Cummins

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Lord of Order and Grace we humbly return a small part of the bounty You have provided us, We recognize our very lives are testaments to You and Your Creation and Your blessing given to us in Your Son, Jesus, Continue to help understand the needs of others and allow us to show Your Nature through our response to those needs as we celebrate the Resurrection of The Christ, in whose name, we pray.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, just as Thomas and the disciples, who lived with Jesus, failed to understand, we confess to missing Your mark in our daily lives. We pray but don't implement, we worship but overlook, we seek but miss Your Truths for us. We fall short of Your directions in our lives. We hear but don't listen. Forgive us, God, and help us to open our eyes, to unstop our ears and to open our lives to respond to the Resurrection with which we have been blessed and have the courage to truly listen to Your Spirit. In every way, large and small, help us to become all that You have created us to be, Amen**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

God has shown us through the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, God's forgiving Nature. Know then, that in the name of Jesus, The Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus, The Christ, we are forgiven.**

**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION** (found on p. 17 of The United Methodist Hymnal)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us lift up our hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sung: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth  
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one  
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

... As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Sung: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

... All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Sung: Amen.**

(UM Book of Worship, The Methodist Publishing House, ©1972)

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**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 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.**

**\*BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS**

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**                      *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*                      arr. Barbara Kinyon  
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VFUMC Bell Choir; Deborah Fitzgibbons, interim director

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

**SENDING HYMN**    *Christ is Alive*    UMH 318  
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1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
he comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.

3 Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

4 In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**    *Come, Ye Faithful*    Johann Horn  
Public Domain  
Cathi Peterson, organ

*Prayer Requests*

**Atascadero UMC** —Pastor Michelle Park

**Bethel Korean Mission Church of Santa Maria**—Pastor Kisung Nam

Dick and Linda Hatcher's daughter, Eileen recovering at home after being in the hospital for a week.

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.