

Order of Worship
EASTER SUNDAY
9:30 am – March 31, 2024

Participating Live?

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

PRELUDE

Come, Ye Faith, Raise the Strain
Public Domain
Cathi Peterson, organ

Johann Horn

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Easter Fanfare

E. E. Ferguson

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Bruce Miller, liturgist

Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed.

We run to the tomb to see for ourselves. And it is true. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed.

We hear a voice call our name, and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always.

Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. Thanks be to God.

(The Call to Worship is from Ministrymatters.com)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

UMH 302

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1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. 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!
3. 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, boasting grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!
6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia! Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia! Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

SCRIPTURE

John 20: 1-18 (NRSV)
The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Bruce Miller, liturgist

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

PREPARATION HYMN

Christ is Risen

UMH 307

Words: Brian Wren, 1984, Music: Polish Carol: arr. Edith M.G. Reed, Hope Publishing Company, © 1986. Song # 00438.
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1. Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.
2. Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.
3. Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

MESSAGE

Rev. Diane Rehfield

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Rejoice! The Lord Has Risen

Douglas E. Wagner

VFUMC Choir; KuanFen Liu, interim director; Cathi Peterson, organ; Jessica Rosenfeld, trumpet
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of miracles and wonder, what better gift could we be given than the assurance that this earthly life is not all there is; that Christ has conquered sin and death; that we are a forgiven people! Today we bring our offerings in gratitude and with love for all that you have given us. May our gifts be blessed by you to spread the Good News to all the ends of the earth! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Amen

SENDING HYMN

Christ Has Risen

TFWS 2115

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1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers Christ has risen where hope died as He said and as He promised as we doubted and denied. Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer; let the world confirm the rumour Christ is risen God is here
2. Christ has risen for the people whom He died to love and save; Christ had risen for the women bringing flowers to grace His grave. Christ has risen for disciples Huddled in an upstairs room; He whose word inspired creation Can't be silenced by the tomb
3. Christ has risen to companion former friends who fear the night, sensing loss and limitation where their faith had once burned bright. They bemoan what is no longer, they expect no hopeful sign till Christ ends their conversation, breaking bread and sharing wine

BENEDICTION

We have come from darkness and despair to hope and joy.

We have been transformed by new life.

Go forth to witness and to testify to the message of hope we have received this day.

Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Amen.

(The Benediction is from Ministrymatters.com)

POSTLUDE

Thine Be the Glory

G. F. Handel

Arr. Albin C. Whitworth Song 207145. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #734744-A. All rights reserved.
Cathi Peterson, organ

Thank you to Miriam Arichea, piano, Dylan Gruber, flute, Jessica Rosenfeld, trumpet, Cathi Peterson, organ, and KuanFen Liu, conductor for providing us with glorious music today.

Prayer Requests

Bishop First UMC—Pastor Kate Hunter

Camarillo Korean UMC—Pastor Sang Lee

Pastor Cindy and the Huskey family on the passing of Cindy's grandmother

Leif—a friend of David Atkins suffering from severe diabetes

Pastor Diane's daughter Michelle & wife Hannah. Hannah newly diagnosed with AVM and awaiting next steps

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.