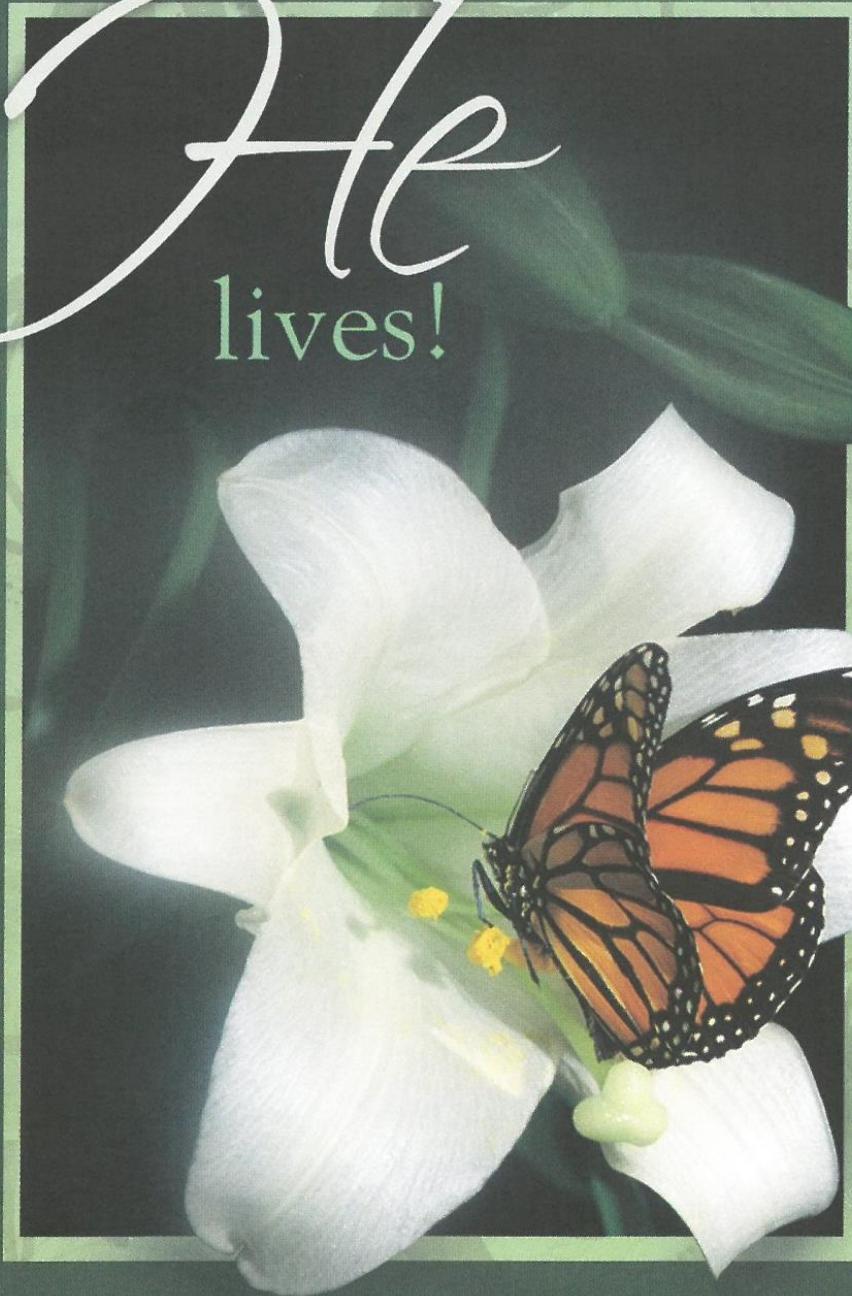


Contemporary
9:15 a.m. Full Text

He
lives!



Welcome to Easter at Epworth! We extend a special welcome to all guests who are worshipping with us this day. For more information about our church, we invite you to visit our website at www.eumcrb.org. Today is a day of great celebration – Christ is Alive! It’s the bedrock of our faith and the event that makes us Christians! We have spent all of Lent at Epworth focusing and learning about the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer, but we’re not done – we have one word left – Amen! What does this word have to do with Easter? Let’s find out together today.

As we share Holy Communion, all are welcome at the table of the Lord’s Supper. The elements we use are wheat bread and unfermented grape juice and we have gluten-free elements in the middle right hand station. As we prepare for worship, consider the Easter mystery and promise: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community.

MISSION: Inviting All, Finding Your Place, Connecting to God, Demonstrating Care

☞ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ☛

Gathering Music

Thine Is the Glory ... G. F. Handel
Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain ... Sir Arthur Sullivan
Rejoice, the Lord Is King! ... John Darwall

Doug Yetter, organ

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 28:1-10

Laurie Kuebler

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’

This is my message for you.”

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!”

And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Brother and Sisters,

This is the Word of God

§ Thanks be to God

*Song of Resurrection

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

UMH 302

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and haven 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!

Welcome

no bags, brief welcome

Todd

*Singing in Praise

JESUS IS ALIVE

Hallelujah! Jesus is alive! Death has lost its vict'ry and the grave has been denied.
Jesus lives forever – He's alive, He's alive!

He's the Alpha and Omega, the first and last is He;
The curse of sin is broken and we have perfect liberty.
The Lamb of God has spoken – He's alive, He's alive!

Hallelujah! Jesus is alive! Death has lost its vict'ry and the grave has been denied.
Jesus lives forever – He's alive, He's alive!

He's the Alpha and Omega, the first and last is He;
The curse of sin is broken and we have perfect liberty.
The Lamb of God has spoken – He's alive, hallelujah, Jesus is alive! (repeat) ¹

Children's Celebration

Mickie McManamon

BECAUSE HE LIVES, AMEN

I believe in the Son, I believe in the Risen One. I believe I overcome by the power of His blood.

Amen! Amen! I'm alive, I'm alive because He lives.

Amen! Amen! Let my song join the one that never ends, because He lives.

I was dead in the grave, I was covered in sin and shame.
I heard mercy call my name. He rolled the stone away. (Refrain)

(Because He lives) I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, ev'ry fear is gone.

I know He holds my life, my future in His hands. (Refrain) TAG: Because He lives. ²

☞ WE ENGAGE THE WORD ☞

Lesson

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

Laurie Kuebler

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."
The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Sermon

The Lord’s Prayer: Amen!

Rev. Vicky Starnes

Sermon Response

AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Our Father, Who is in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Come and let Your glory come, and let Your glory fall.

Our Father, Who is in Heaven; the rocks cry out Your fame.

Come and let Your glory come, and let Your glory fall.

I will sing, sing a new song, I will sing, sing a new song;

I will sing, sing a new song to the Lord.

Let Your Kingdom come, let Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Ev’ry heart proclaim the mercy of Your name, on earth, as it is in Heaven.

God give us, new ev’ry morning, mercy as daily bread.

In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus we pray.

And lead us not to temptation, but deliver us with Your hand

In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus we pray. Father we pray!

I will sing, sing a new song, I will sing, sing a new song;

I will sing, sing a new song to the Lord.

Let Your Kingdom come, let Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Ev’ry heart proclaim the mercy of Your name, on earth, as it is in Heaven.

For the Kingdom is Yours, and the power is Yours, and the glory forever, amen.

For the Kingdom is Yours, and the power is Yours, and the glory forever, amen.

Yeah, the Kingdom is Yours, and the power is Yours, and the glory forever, amen.

For the Kingdom is Yours, and the power is Yours, and the glory forever, amen.

Let Your Kingdom come, let Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Ev’ry heart proclaim the mercy of Your name, on earth, as it is in Heaven. As it is in Heaven. ³

Joys and Concerns

Todd

Morning Prayer (by Ann Siddall)

O God, with faces touched by the light of a new day, and hearts warmed by our prayers and praises, we come before you to pray for the needs of our world.

L: Into the light of Easter morning we raise those who are struggling with illness, with despair over their lives, or with the breakdown of relationships. (people may be named)
May the light of Christ shine upon them.

P: **May the light of Christ shine upon them.**

L: Into the light of Easter morning, we bring those places in our world where war, violence, poverty and need are the experiences of everyday life. (These places may be named)
May the light of Christ shine upon them.

P: **May the light of Christ shine upon them.**

L: Into the light of Easter morning, we bring the headline news of this weekend (this may be named); we hold in our hearts the pain of those suffering violence, bereavement or conflict.

May the light of Christ shine upon them.

P: **May the light of Christ shine upon them.**

L: And into the light of Easter morning we bring ourselves, the private struggles, the heart's yearnings, the hidden dreams, the unfulfilled potential.

May the light of Christ shine upon us.

P: **May the light of Christ shine upon us. AMEN.**

Invitation to Offering Please sign the blue Connections Pad and pass it down the row. Todd

Offerings are given through cash and check, on-line giving, Texting at 302-488-0038

and by using our Giving Kiosk in the main lobby. There are Giving Cards in the pews to place in the plate, if you wish.

Bless your heart for supporting our ministries!

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All. Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh. Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save
'Till on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious Day up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt of life, no fear in death this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'til He returns or calls me home. Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand. ⁴ Don't bring plates up

☞ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ☞

***The Great Thanksgiving Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your 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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty (*almighty God*), creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey,

and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**§ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

By your great mercy we have been born anew

to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead

and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people,

declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,

who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,

in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,

gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

Vicky

Todd

Vicky

poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Todd

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

§ 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.

Sharing Bread and Cup *AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)*

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

*My chains are gone I've been set free. My God my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love amazing grace.*

The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures (*refrain 2x*)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.

But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine. You are forever mine.⁵

AT THE CROSS (LOVE RAN RED)

There's a place where mercy reigns and never dies.
There's a place where streams of grace flow deep and wide,
where all the love I've ever found comes like a flood, comes flowing down.

*At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life. I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You.
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white, I owe all to You, I owe all to You, Jesus.*

There's a place where sin and shame are powerless,
where my heart has peace with God and forgiveness,
where all the love I've ever felt comes like a flood, comes flowing down.

*At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life. I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You.
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white, I owe all to You, I owe all to You.*

Here my hope is found, here on holy ground. Here I bow down, here I bow down.
Here, arms open wide, here You saved my life. Here I bow down, here I bow.

*At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life. I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You.
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white,
I owe all to You, Jesus.*

Savior of the world. Jesus, Savior of the world. Jesus, Savior of the world. Jesus. ⁶

Prayer after Communion (Vicky reads this prayer)

Holy, gracious, God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love; we have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence; we accept you into our bodies, into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer and we give you thanks.

✠ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ✠

*Benediction

Vicky

As Christ burst forth from the tomb, may new life burst forth from us and show itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world. And may the same Christ, who lives forever and is the source of our new life, keep your hearts rejoicing and grant you peace this day and always.
Amen.

*Song of Resurrection

MY REDEEMER LIVES

I know He rescued my soul, His blood has covered my sin, I believe, I believe.
My shame, He's taken away, my pain is healed in His name, I believe, I believe.
I'll raise a banner; my Lord has conquered the grave!

(refrain) My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! (repeat all)

(bridge) You lift my burden, I rise with You.

I'm dancing on this mountain top to see Your kingdom come.

(refrain 2) My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! (3X) ⁷

Bulletins for the month of April are sponsored by Russ Mullen.

Our Lily and Chancel Item Lists are in the Narthex for those wanting a copy. In an effort to be good stewards, we have printed fewer copies than normal.

Stephen Ministers, wearing blue name badges, will be at each service if anyone in the Epworth family wants to talk about any life challenges.

The special Peace Candle on the Chancel shines to remind us of God's desire for peace throughout our world and our call to be God's peacemakers.

DVD and Broadcast Ministries: All Church Services at Epworth are presented using multimedia technology. The screens above the Chancel area are used for text, videos, photographs and live cameras. Each service is digitally recorded for archive purposes as well as for distribution to our homebound members on DVD. These recordings may also be broadcast or archived on our web page. Therefore; you may, at any time, be seen and recorded on camera - anywhere throughout the Sanctuary.

Assisting with Today's Service

Praise Team VOCALS: Cathy Benson, Kathryn Burgwin, Dan Foskey, Donna Graves, Jim Long, Laurie Kuebler, Bill Martin, Penny MacLennan, Mike Ryan, Mike Tyler, Gloria Woodson
BAND: Virgil Night, Terry Rasberry, Mike Reynolds, Doug Yetter

Acolyte Autumn Reynolds

Sound Josh Megee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman, Sharon Wert

Ushers Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee
9:30: Stu & Linda Bruce, Larry Zeigler, Sam Sonnett, Carol Pophan, Kevin Reagan

EASTER ENSEMBLE: Marcy Parykaza, flute; Ed Fick, oboe; Cody Leavel, clarinet; Blair Clauss, bassoon; Alicia Mickenberg, viola

Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

¹ *Jesus Is Alive:* Ron Kenoly ©1987 Integrity's Hosanna Music.

² *Because He Lives, Amen:* William & Gloria Gaither, Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Maher & Jason Ingram ©2014 Hanna Street Music

³ *As It Is in Heaven:* Matt Maher & Ed Cash ©2007 worshiptogether.com Song (ASCAP)

⁴ *In Christ Alone:* Keith Getty & Stuart Townend ©2001 Kingsway Thankyou Music.

⁵ *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone):* Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louis Giglio ©2006 worshiptogether.com songs.

⁶ *At the Cross (Love Ran Red):* Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash & Matt Armstrong ©2014 THANKYOU MUSIC

⁷ *My Redeemer Lives:* Reuben Morgan ©1998 Reuben Morgan/Hillsongs Publishing.

Ministers: The Church Family... *Lay Leader:* Gwen Osborne

Senior Pastor: Rev. Vicky Starnes ... *Associate Pastor:* Rev. Todd Shultz

Director of Music Ministries: Doug Yetter ... *Accompanist:* Linda Jo Hess...*Coordinator of Caring Ministries:* Mickie McManamon

Communications & Technologies Manager: Kenneth Mahan ... *Office Manager:* Darlene Ford

Special Projects: Debbie Hunt ... *Administrative Assistant:* Diana Young ... *Sound Tech:* Josh Megee

Preschool Director: Betsy Plowman ... *Nursery:* Cathy Crawford ... *Interim Cemetery Superintendent:* Jay Stevenson

Custodian: Wanda Hudson ... *Maintenance:* Mike Harrigan



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American Sign Language
at 9:15 Service



Affiliated with other United Methodists for greater inclusiveness through the Reconciling Ministries Network
www.RMNetwork.org

worship@epworth
7:45 & 11:15 - Traditional 9:15 - Contemporary

