

**Order of Worship**  
**Sunday, April 4, 2021: Easter Sunday**  
**9:30 a.m. Online**

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**PRELUDE** *Good Christians All, Rejoice* (setting by J. Holstien)  
Gaye Herndon, organ

**WELCOME** Rev. Becky Rokitowski

**MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP** *Easter Medley* (J.W. Krug)  
Handbell Ensemble

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Gary Eggebraaten, 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.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**O God of all our days,**

**we come this morning with eager anticipation.**

**We seek to know you, to see you, to touch you.**

**Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew.**

**Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection.**

**May we, with shouts of joy, proclaim your steadfast, liberating love  
to all people, everywhere. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* (UMH 302)

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God, who is light in the darkness,**

**who never gives up on love, who is always working for our good,**

**who weeps when we weep and laughs when we laugh,**

**who calls us to be more than we are**

**as God relentlessly transforms our tears into alleluias.**

**We believe in Christ, present at and in the creation,**

**heard in the words of prophets,**

**enfleshed in the birth of a long-sought Messiah,**

**alive in the lessons taught to disciples,**

**not stuck in a tomb of despair, nailed to cross, or buried in the past,**

**but living forever, and walking with us on our journeys today,**

**seen in our stories, present in everything we can see, touch, and imagine.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the invisible presence of God,**

the joy, hope, and peace of possibilities opening all around us all the time.  
We believe the Spirit calls us to community, to compassion,  
to welcome, and to acts of mercy and justice,  
so that the whole world will tremble with wonder and hope.

We are people of faith in the risen Christ,  
and we see our Christ in everyone and in everything.  
We strive to live in such a way that the world will see Christ rising again,  
in us and through us, with the message of Easter.

God cannot be contained;  
God lives.  
Christ is risen.  
Alleluia. Amen.

#### GLORIA PATRI

#### PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

**ANTHEM** *Calvary's Love* (G. Nelson/P. McHugh/arr. M. McDonald)  
Se'lah

**CHILDREN'S CHAT** Kayla Shaffer, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 28:1-10

**SERMON** *First Fruit: LOVE*  
Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Love* (A. Koepke)  
Laura and Maria Alexander

**CLOSING HYMN** *Easter People, Raise Your Voices* (UMH 304)

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Send us out into the world in the joy and peace  
of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.  
Send us to care for a redeemed creation;  
to follow as children of the light;  
to share resurrection joy by our life and words;  
to glorify God by our love;  
And may we continue to be blessed with the fruit of the Holy Spirit.  
Formed and shaped by love - this day and always!  
Alleluia! Amen.

**POSTLUDE** *Lift High the Cross* (setting by L. Schackley)