



Vestal United Methodist Church

April 11, 2021



Welcome Prelude

Call to Worship - Reading

John 1:1-5, 10-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

* Hymn 322

Up from the Grave He Arose

* Signs of Peace

Gathering Prayer

God of love and grace, how quickly we forget. It is almost like it never happened. We've gone back to our lives – gone back to our jobs or to school – gone back to the day-in, day-out busyness that fills our thoughts, our time, our hearts. We put away the decorations and the Easter baskets. We've gone back to the way things have been and it's almost like Easter never happened – almost like it never was. How quickly we forget the wonder, the awe, the joy. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us for taking the gift of your actions for granted. Forgive us for not living the joy of Jesus' resurrection in every moment. Help us to shine with the joyful light of your love, making every day a day of Easter celebration. Help us to live what we say we believe so that we may be your love wherever we are all the time. Amen

Silence

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 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Anthem

Scripture Reading

I John 1:1-7

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life. This life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Children's Message

* Hymn 206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-29

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Message

And then...

Sharon Harris

Joys & Concerns Pastoral Prayer

Living the Faith

Offering Ourselves to God

* 310 Hymn

He Lives

Benediction

* 664 Congregational Response

Sent Forth by God's Blessing [verse 2]

* Postlude

Opening Hymn 322: Up From the Grave He Arose

WORDS & MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1874

1. Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

2. Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior;
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

3. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Opening Hymn 206: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

WORDS & MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

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1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]

Closing Hymn 310: He Lives

WORDS & MUSIC: Alfred H. Ackley, 1933

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1. I serve a risen Savior,
he's in the world today;
I know that he is living,
whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy,
I hear his voice of cheer,
and just the time I need him,
he's always near.

Refrain:

He lives, he lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives,
salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives?
He lives within my heart.

2. In all the world around me
I see his loving care,
and though my heart grows weary,
I never will despair.
I know that he is leading
through all the stormy blast;
the day of his appearing
will come at least. [Refrain]

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
lift up your voice and sing
eternal hallelujahs
to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him,
the help of all who find;
none other is so loving,
so good and kind. [Refrain]

Response 664: Sent Forth by God's Blessing, vs. 2

WORDS: Omer Westendorf, 1964; MUSIC: THE ASH GROVE; harm. Leland Sateren, 1972

Words © 1964 World Library Publications, Inc.; Harm. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.