

**+ We Celebrate Resurrection & New Life +
Easter Day + 2023**



+ The People of Mount Zion-Finksburg , Maryland +

Wm. Louis Piel Pastor + Leslie Gabler, Director of Music
Ushers Shirley Loveless & Judy Piel +Worship Bill & Teresa Tighe, Joyce Iglehart

+ Easter Day + April 9, 2023 + Worship 9:55 a.m. +



Musical Prelude + The Message of Good Friday

“God loved the world so much that he gave his only son that we might have life and have it abundantly”

The Message of Good Friday + Video + “Were You There?”

Celebrating Resurrection, New Life, Easter!

The Gospel According to Matthew 28.1-10

Call to Worship (Unison)

We are not eye-witnesses to an event,
as were Mary and the disciples;
we have not journeyed
through a dangerous city
to seek answers or consolation;
we have not seen angels
gathering at the rim of this day,
or wept in the garden this morning
because we could not find Him.

But we gather this day because we are here to attest to a story
A life-saving story that has not lost its power
during twenty centuries
of change and conflict.
A living story of new life and hope
The Lord is Risen + Our Lord is Risen + Alleluia!

Hymn of the Resurrection “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” + UM Hymnal #303

Sing verses +One through Four (1,2, 3, 4.) +
Lighting of the Candelabra Bill & Teresa Tighe

Opening Prayer

Anthem “Up, From the Grave He A-Rose” + The Faithful Few

“Low in the grave He lay, Jesus, my Savior! Waiting the coming day, Jesus, Lord. Just when it seemed all hope was lost, out of the grief and pain of the cross. Up from the grave He arose. Death could not keep its prey, Jesus my Lord.”

Mediation + The Resurrection and Its Impact on the Early Followers

Morning Prayer –Prayer Leader Joyce Iglehart

Our Prayer Song (Hymnal 314)

“I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear,
Falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. And he walks with me, and he talks
With me, and he tells me I am his own, and the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other, has ever, known”

(Unison-Congregation)

The resurrection was first discovered by the friends of Jesus
who stood in grief outside his tomb.

They heard the words, why are you looking for the living among the dead?

Resurrection turned despair into life.

Resurrection turned fear into hope.

Resurrection turned injustice into liberation.

Resurrection turned oppression into freedom.

It's been discovered again whenever someone has found the space
to love after being hurt,

has found the courage to begin again
when it seems life has ended.

We have faith to believe resurrection will happen

We have faith to believe resurrection will happen
in the lives we know are shattered
and the hearts we know are broken.
may the resurrection come.

(Let us pray the “Our Father” together)

Our Father, which 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 that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

We Welcome our Children

Even if we do not have children in congregational worship we remember all God's children.

“Jesus loves me, This I know, for the Bible tells me so, Little ones to him belong, they are weak
But He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes! Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so

Informal Moments + Reception of our Tithes & Offerings

Offering Response (Hymnal #95) “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Musical Meditation on a Hymn of Easter

“Early on a Sunday” Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Music “Standing on the Promises”

(1) Early on a Sunday, women went to weep, at the tomb of Jesus, for their pain was deep. All their hopes were shattered, they had lost their friend,
till they heard this was not the end.

(Refrain) “Christ is risen! Shout your alleluias and go share the good news,
love and serve him, for God has given life and hope anew

(2) Death has been defeated, with its pain and strife,
God has opened wide for us eternal life, God has given Christians that new life to share,
bringing love and justice everywhere. (Refrain)

(3) Every week we celebrate your Easter Day, as we come to worship you, and sing
and pray. We recall the empty tomb and know your grace, and your living presence
in this place.” (Refrain)

Meditation + The Resurrection and its Impact on our Lives Today!

Easter Hymn Hymnal #318 “Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing”

Closing Blessing (Pastor)

Go now as God’s chosen witnesses

Go now to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him.
Do not look for Jesus among the dead, but be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

And may God raise you from all that would entomb you;
May Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you;
And may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good.

Congregation Unison Closing Prayer (Congregation)

As we prepare to leave this place and go back into the world
We affirm that the “Alleluias” of Easter are not just words
They are a way of life and living

We share the “alleluias”

When our bread is divided among the hungry,
When our table is set, and all God’s people can eat together
When the hungry in spirit are fed with God’s love
When peace is celebrated even among those we disagree with
When diverse and divided communities are brought together
When neighbors love each other, regardless.

We leave this place bubbling over with God’s love!

We promise to share that love!

So let it be! Amen and Amen!

Easter Postlude

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