

+ The Season of Easter + We Celebrate Resurrection & New Life +
Every time we meet!



+ The People of Mount Zion-Finksburg , Maryland +

Wm. Louis Piel Pastor + Leslie Gabler, Director of Music
Ushers Shirley Loveless & Judy Piel

The First Sunday after Easter Day + April 16, 2023 + Worship 9:55 a.m. +

Musical Prelude + The Message of New Life in Christ Jesus 1

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

Celebrating Resurrection, New Life, Easter!

(Unison) “The angel said to the women who had arrived to anoint the dead body of Jesus. 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!”

Hymn Verse of Resurrection Verse One

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” UM Hymnal #302

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 “Easter People, Raise Your Voices” UM Hymnal #304

Opening Prayer

Anthem “A-Ile-u! + The Faithful Few

The congregation is invited to sing the chorus with the “Faithful Few”
“A-Ile-lu.” “A-Ile-lu.” “Everybody sing a-Ile-lu!” for the Lord is risen, it is true,
everybody sing, a-Ile-lu.”

Meditation + The Resurrection and Its Impact on the Early Followers

+ Apostle Paul + I Corinthians 15.12-21 (early) + Mark 16.1-8 (Resurrection)
+ Matthew & Luke + John + Change in their lives + Acts of the Apostles 1.4-5
+ The Great Fifty Days + Resurrection to Pentecost (unity
+ (Genesis 11. “Tower of Babel “(Confusion & Separation)

Morning Prayer

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.

Easter Video “Up From the Grave He Arose” (Voice of Eden – India)

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 #94) “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

- a. Our Opening Hymn on Sunday “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”
 - b. William James “Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.”
 - c. “I serve a risen Savior, He’s in the world today”
 - d. Brian Wrenn “Christ is alive no longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now and dwells in every place and time.
not throned a far, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.”
 - e. In an article on the Oberammergau Passion Play “After all, the gospel is first and foremost,
God’s word to the world today. Whatever we might learn from the
past is only valuable as it serves today’s proclamation. It is hard to make the
sacrament out of stale bread and sour wine.”
 - f. Paul (Romans) “So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God
in Christ Jesus.”
 - g. Paul (Romans) “Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and
believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved.”
 - h. Ephesians 4.25-32 +I Colossians 3.8-15
- + + +
- + Jesus “I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly”
 - + “I have come not to be served to serve”
 - + Jesus the one who serves + Luke 22.24-27
 - + Not all about me (my congregation) “Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth
as it in heaven.”
 - +Love your enemy – Go the extra mile
 - + In our congregation + As you leave this place remember what we have confessed
in here must be lived out there.
 - + Pentecost (Acts 2)

Hymn of Celebration “If Christ had not been raised from death” (words on next page)

(based on 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20)

Sing to the tune of #152

If Christ had not been raised from death
our faith would be in vain,
our preaching but a waste of breath, our sin and guilt remain.
But now the Lord is risen indeed;
he rules in earth and heaven: his Gospel meets a world of need
in Christ we are forgiven.

If Christ still lay within the tomb
then death would be the end,
and we should face our final doom with neither guide nor friend.
But now the Saviour is raised up,
so when a Christian dies, we mourn, yet look to God in hope
in Christ the saints arise!

If Christ had not been truly raised his church would live a lie;
his name should never more be praised, his words deserve to die.
But now our great Redeemer lives;
through Him we are restored; his word endures, his church revives
in Christ, our risen Lord.

Written by Christopher Idle,

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