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## Welcome, we're glad you joined us!

We welcome you to join us on a transformative journey.

**Seeking God**, we strive to know God and love God.

**Serving others**, we follow our Servant Savior  
to help bring fullness of life to others.

**Sharing Christ's love with all**, we proclaim the  
unconditional love of Christ filled with joy and hope.

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\* **Please rise in body or in spirit**      **Greg Hughes, liturgist**

### WE GATHER in GOD'S NAME

#### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** – *"Lift High the Cross"*      Sydney H. Nicholson  
arr. Stephen DeCesare  
Organ & Strings

#### \* CALL to WORSHIP

One: This day is like every other day.

All: **Alarm clocks beeped. Weary bodies came to life.**

And yet this day, is like no other day—

**For the sun rose, and we knew it was a miracle.  
The tomb was empty, and we know it was love.**

So again and again we say—

**The longest night is over.  
Death has lost its sting.  
Jesus is among us.  
Alleluia!**

Again and again and again—

We join our hearts in song and sing  
"Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!"  
for Christ is living and so are we!  
**Alleluia, Christ is Risen indeed!**

\* **HYMN** – *"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"* (vs. 1, 2 & 4)      #232

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

#### \* PRAYER of CONFESSION

Lord of life, thank you for this new day  
and the brightening sky:  
for the song of birds,  
the early morning bustle of city streets,  
for this day of all days when we celebrate the risen Christ;  
**Thank you, Lord of life!**

Lord of love, thank you for the message of Easter:  
for the affirmation of your steadfast love;  
for the presence of the One who overcame death;  
for the promise of life still to be revealed;  
**Thank you, Lord of love!**

Lord of life, though creation shouts your presence,  
**we do not always know where to find you.**

Lord of love, your Spirit is in all who love and choose life,  
**but we do not always recognize you.**

Lord of light, your promises give us hope and confidence,  
**but we do not always understand or believe.  
Open our senses and our hearts to your love  
that cannot be weakened or diminished,  
imprisoned or killed. Amen.**

#### \* ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Just as Christ did not come to condemn but to liberate,  
so too is Christ raised from death  
not to judge but to celebrate.  
Cast off the burden of sorrow and instead  
raise up the song of joy –  
**Christ lives! We live!  
All is made new on this Resurrection morning!**

Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!**

#### EASTER AFFIRMATION in MUSIC

*"Crown Him With Many Crowns"*

George J. Elvey  
arr. Rich Heffler  
String Quartet

#### A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

**Resurrecting Lord, you conquered death  
and opened the gates of life everlasting.  
In the power of the Holy Spirit,  
raise us with Christ,  
open our ears and loosen our tongues  
that we, too, may proclaim your love,  
healing, and peace to the nations. Amen**

#### SCRIPTURE

A reading from Mark 16:1-8

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** – *"Again & Again: The Key to Life"*      *Pastor Lawrence*

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\* **HYMN** – *Christ Is Alive! (vs. 1, 2, 3 & 5)*      #246

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war where color,  
scorn or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still,  
yet loves the more, and lives,  
where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

#### THE SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

##### THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come neighbors, do not be afraid!  
What was once sealed is now open...  
once dead, now living.  
**We come to share the bread and cup.**

Come neighbors, do not be afraid!  
Come to taste resurrection, share eternity,  
and be touched by the hand of the risen Christ.  
**We come to Christ's table with joy.**

(Singing) The Lord be with you.

(Singing) **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.**

##### GREAT THANKSGIVING

On this great day of celebration...  
With all creation we sing your praises:  
(Singing)

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

Holy is the One who comes in your name, O God.  
Holy is Christ who came in the power of your  
name and the nature of your love.

**Holy is Jesus of Nazareth who in life,  
in death, and in undying life brought  
life to us and led us to you.**

Remembering his life, his teachings, and especially now  
his costly choice of the way of the cross,  
the way of true love...

(Joys and concerns will be lifted up at this time.)

Now, let us join with one, strong voice in the prayer our  
Savior taught us saying... **Our Father...**

#### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

**MUSIC for OUR OFFERING** "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"  
J.S. Bach, arr. Stephen DeCesare | Organ & Strings

Click here <https://onrealm.org/oxfordpresbychurch/-/give/now>  
to give online

\* **DOXOLOGY** – Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #606

\* **HYMN** – Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna! #248

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!

Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:

all creation is amazed.

In the desert all surrounding,  
see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding  
bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits  
from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning.

See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection,  
not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion.

Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven  
nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation

where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus:

"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us.

Sing Hosanna everyone!

#### \* BLESSING

Friends, do not look for the risen Christ  
in the confines of any building.

**We will seek the risen Jesus  
in our homes and communities,  
in all the pathways and byways of our lives.**

Do not seek comfort in the familiar,  
but dare to risk the unfamiliar.

**We know that Resurrection makes all things new!**

Do not cling to all the old,  
expected notions about God, Jesus, Spirit,  
but go forth and celebrate this truly new Good News:  
**Because Christ lives, new possibilities are ever  
before us!**

Christ is Risen Indeed!

**Alleluia and amen!**

#### POSTLUDE

Toccata on *Gaudeamus Pariter*  
Christian People, Raise Your Song  
setting, James Biery

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#### STRING QUARTET:

Doug Hamilton, Violin I – Claire Timmerman, Violin II  
Rose Reidmiller Gowda, Viola – Michael G. Ronstadt, Cello

#### STUDENT QUARTET:

Kate Trybus, Soprano – Madison Wells, Alto  
Aaron Garner, Tenor – Andrew McCleese, Baritone

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**Congregational Concerns:** Betty Barnhart, Jim Baer, Rodger  
Cromer, John Curry, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse,  
Ruth Miller, Jan Reinhart, Sarah Soika, John Woodruff.

**Email congregational concerns to Judy Fisher,**  
[fisherrh@miamioh.edu](mailto:fisherrh@miamioh.edu), or contact the church office.

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#### Campus Ministry Discussion Group

Our discussion group nights for college and campus students  
continue this Monday night with "Worldchanging 101" based on  
the lessons from the book by David LaMotte. We will also be  
meeting again on Monday, April 19 at 7:00 P.M. over Zoom. If  
you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Marc. All  
materials will be provided.

#### Revised Youth Group Schedule for the Spring!

Youth group will be is back for a new Spring series starting on  
Sunday, April 11th (note the date change) called "Being Easter  
People." Join us for four weeks of service projects, in-person  
discussion nights, and even a little Spring cleaning! Check your  
e-mail for more details. Hope to see you there!

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**Oxford Presbyterian Church**  
**for a full ministry calendar, please visit:**  
<https://oxfordpresbychurch.org/calendar/>

**Lawrence Bartel, Pastor**  
**Marc van Bulck, Associate Pastor**  
**Kent Peterson, Music Director**  
**Lynn Jacobs, Organist**

# Celebration of Resurrection: Easter Sunday



**Sunday, April 4, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**



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Church**  
U.S.A.

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