



Good News Ambassador



Join us for Worship...

We are new to worshipping at a distance but we are trying to make things easy and accessible for everybody. Here are multiple ways to connect with us for worship online Sunday at 9:30 am:

Zoom

(<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8034563150>) or over the phone at 1-929-205-6099 (when prompted enter meeting ID **803 456 3150 followed by #**) The password for online and phone calls is 123456.

www.rschurchofchristuniting.com

Link to our Facebook page right from this website.

Facebook.com live stream -- Go right to **RS Church of Christ Uniting** (Type it into the search box, and Follow). You can also comment.

Youtube.com Search for **RS COCU** where you can subscribe if you like, but can always just search again without subscribing, to find our Worship services and Daily Reflections.

Palm Sunday's online/phone service went well, with comments showing on the FaceBook screen from various worshipers. After the service COCU folks were talking on the Zoom like an old-fashioned party line phone call.

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## EASTER MESSAGE

One Sunday, in a far-flung province of the growing Roman Empire, the world was about to change forever. That's how our Easter message begins, with the miracle of resurrection following the trial and execution of the Lord Jesus Christ. The cross is transformed from an instrument of terror into the symbol of hope, the tomb goes from a monument to death to a reminder of the triumph of life everlasting. Easter is our time to be hopeful of God's victories!

All of Lent was leading up to this moment. All the pain and suffering of Holy Week was leading up to this moment. In one moment of time the whole history and future of the human race was rewritten by the grace of God. Instead of being bound to sin and death, in the resurrection we are given the opportunity to be bound up with God in a brand new covenant relationship.

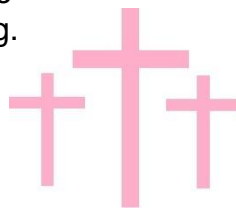
There's a word that I invite us all to think about this Easter, palimpsest. Palimpsest comes to the English Language from an Ancient Greek word, palímpsēstos, which literally means "again scraped".

For the Greeks the word was used when a clay tablet was scraped clean of what had been written on it so that it could be used again. When we use the word in English it is used to describe ancient manuscripts where the original writing was washed off so that it could be used again.

We are palimpsest. That is, through the grace of God, we have had our original writing washed off so that God can write a new story onto our lives. Our failures, our shortcomings, our broken relationships, our gaping wounds of body and soul, our sinful nature; all of it has been washed clean by the grace of God. Jesus' resurrection lets us know that something new has been written where the old was washed away. We are now named "Child of God" and "Person of Worth" by the grace offered to us by God.

Easter is a time for worship, a time for family, a time for joy! In the midst of our coronavirus inspired separation it can be difficult to find a place for worship in our lives, it can be hard to keep connected to family over long distances, and it can be hard to see joy when so many are hurting all around the world. It is for just these reasons though that it is more important than ever that we proclaim how wondrous Easter has been for us.

One of my favorite hymns to sing just after our big Easter celebration in the church is William M. James' Easter People Raise Your Voices. The last stanza in James' hymn can become our victory song through our time of physical separation:



**Every day to us is Easter,  
with its resurrection song.**

**When in trouble move the faster  
to our God who rights the wrong.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**See the power of heavenly throngs.**

When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he did not do so to give us one Sunday every year for

celebration. Jesus rose so that each day of our lives can be rewritten. How are you turning your life into an everlasting Easter celebration? How are you claiming the new identity that Jesus Christ has written onto your life? When our church body meets again, let's tell each other the stories of how we became Easter people and how we are living into the identity that Jesus has given to us.

Casey Bradley  
Pastor, Church of Christ Uniting

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King James Version
The Gospel According to

Matthew Chapter 28:1-10

28 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*.

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, **All hail.** And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, **Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.**

Youtube instructional video name:
"Tutorial on How to BATCH sew masks for hospitals!"

Newer version from the Common English Bible

Matthew Chapter 28: 1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've given the message to you."

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."



What To Do

- Join us on Sunday at 9:30 online.
- Throughout the week Pastor Casey is sharing video reflections and scripture readings.
- Call one another.
- Pray for the church and its members.
- Wear a mask or scarf to shop as needed, and gloves to pump gasoline.
- Wash hands after touching packages & mail.



Palimpsest

Stewardship

Thank you to everyone who has inquired as to how to continue contributing to the financial health of the church. You can always mail checks and offering envelopes to the church (**PO Box 896, Richfield Springs, NY 13439**). Our online Donate page can be accessed through our website:

www.rschurchofchristuniting.com

Up from the Grave He Arose

1. Low in the grave he lay, Je - sus my Sa - vior,
 2. Vain - ly they watch his bed, Je - sus my Sa - vior,
 3. Death can - not keep its prey, Je - sus my Sa - vior;

wait - ing the co - ming day, Je - sus my Lord!
 vain - ly they seal the dead, Je - sus my Lord!
 he tore the bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord!

Refrain

Up from the grave he a - rose; with a
 (he a - rose)

migh - ty tri - umph o'er his foes; he a -
 (o'er his foes)

rose a vic - tor from the dark do - main, and he

lives for - e - ver, with his saints to reign. He a -

rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!
 (he a - rose) (he a - rose)

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 2. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 *5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 *6. King of glo - ry, soul of bliss, — Al - - le - lu - ia!

Earth and heaven in cho - rus say, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - al - ted Head, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to thee by both be given, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 E - ver - las - ting life is this, — Al - - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Thee we greet tri - um - phant now, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Thee to know, thy power to prove, Al - - le - lu - ia!

Sing, — ye heavens, and earth re - ply, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened pa - ra - dise, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Where's thy vic - tory, boas - ting grave? — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Hail the Re - sur - rec - tion, thou, — Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Thus to sing, and thus to love, — Al - - le - lu - ia!

