



Prayer for the Month:

**God, when my tired body can go no further, fill me with the knowledge of the glory that is ours in your Son. Amen.**

***Sunday, APRIL 4, 2021***

***RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: EASTER***  
**9:30 am Worship Service**

**Mission Statement:** Compelled by God's love and our faith in Jesus Christ, Unity Church, a diverse people of faith, seeks to realize God's dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

**Core Values:** We love children. Serve Christ with courage. Embrace diversity. Nurture community. Be an advocate for justice and peace.

**Vision Statement:** We are called to Reach Up, Reach In and Reach Out

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2101 Lancaster Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19805  
[www.unitywilmington.org](http://www.unitywilmington.org)

*We invite you to contact Unity's staff members:*

**The Rev. Clarence Pettit, Senior Pastor**  
302-293-5415; [pastorpettit@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorpettit@hotmail.com)  
Office hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 to 1:00

**The Rev. Dr. Melissa P. Lemons, Pastor for Community Ministry**  
[melissalemons@gmail.com](mailto:melissalemons@gmail.com); 302-803-8866  
Office hours: T 11 – 1:00 & appt. Day off: Monday

**Norwood Coleman, Jr., PhD, Music Director**  
**Mrs. Sharlene Drummond, Choir Director**

**YOU CAN ACCESS US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM ON YOUTUBE, UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILMINGTON, DE WITH THE CURRENT SUNDAY DATE. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, USE LINK BELOW.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4vkddPnbKEzTKIFg-Lkvg>

## **“Enter to Worship”**

\*Those who are able are invited to stand \*\* **Please, no walking or standing during this time.** **BOLD PRINT:** Congregation responds, P: Presider, A: Assisting Minister/Worship Leader

### **THE GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### *WELCOME*

### **“AVE MARIA”**

#### **> PRAISE & WORSHIP – “BECAUSE HE LIVES”**

##### **REFRAIN:**

***Because he lives I can face tomorrow; because he lives all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.***

***God sent his Son, they called him Jesus; he came to love, heal and forgive; he lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there is; prove my Savior lives. Refrain.***

***How sweet to hold a newborn baby; and feel the pride and joy he gives, but greater still the calm assurance this child can face uncertain days because he lives. Refrain.***

***And then one day I’ll cross the river; I’ll fight life’s final war with pain; and then as death gives way to victory, I’ll see the lights of glory and I’ll know he lives. Refrain.***

## **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

### **Introduction**

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But

this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

## OPENING – "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" (Rob Snowden Cantor)

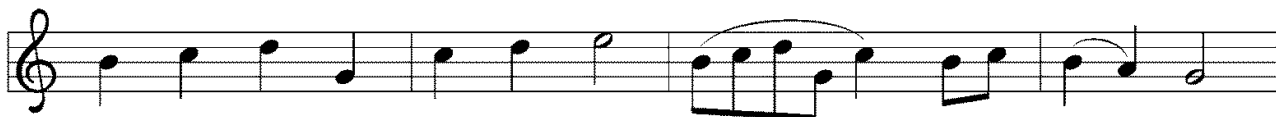
### Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## **CONFESSION & FOREGIVENESS**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, **for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.**

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.      **C:** And also with you.

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** O God, **you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **First Reading: Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called

an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the

grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**AL-LE-LU-IA, LORD TO WHOM SHALL WE GO. YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF E-TER-NAL LIFE. AL-LE-LU-IA.**

**\*GOSPEL (please stand)**

**P: The Holy Gospel according to: MARK 16:1-8**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Hymn of the Day – "Victory in Jesus" (Kim Williams Cantor)**

**I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory  
How He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me**

**I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning  
Then I repented of my sins and won the victory**

**REFRAIN:**

**Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior forever  
He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood  
He loved me 'ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him  
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood**

**I heard about His healing, of His cleansing power revealing  
How He made the lame to walk again and 'caused the blind to see  
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit"  
And somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory. REFRAIN.**

**SERMON**

**PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT**

**Notes...**

## Following Sermon – “Open Our Eyes”

**Father, open our eyes, that we may see, to follow thee. Oh Lord grant us, thy lovin' peace, and let all dissension cease. Let our fait, each day increase, and Master - Lord please-Open our eyes, open our eyes-**

**He has given us, hills and mountains, he has given us, level places. He has given us food and clothing, given us shelter from the storm and the rain-And all that he provided, kept us shelter from the storm and the rain-Grant us thy lovin' peace, and let all dissension cease, let our faith each day increase, and Master - Lord please Open our eyes, open our eyes**

### APOSTLES CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Or, “he descended to the dead,” another translation of this text in widespread use. From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

### Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Hear us, O God.



**Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace. Draw together people of all nations and languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve (*especially*). Assure them of your promises. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust, that we join with (*Benedict the African and*) all who have gone before us in proclaiming: "your mercy endures forever!" Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

(God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7, 8)

**We ask that you place your offering in the plate as you exit the church. God bless you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *All are welcome to communion*

P: The Lord be with you                   **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.                   **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**c: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. We remember and proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection. We look with hope for the Lord's coming and ask...**Come, Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Amen**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:  
*(Alternate/modern versions of prayer in This Far by Faith p. 3, WOV p. 39)*  
**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, and the power, and**

**the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**Invitation to Communion**

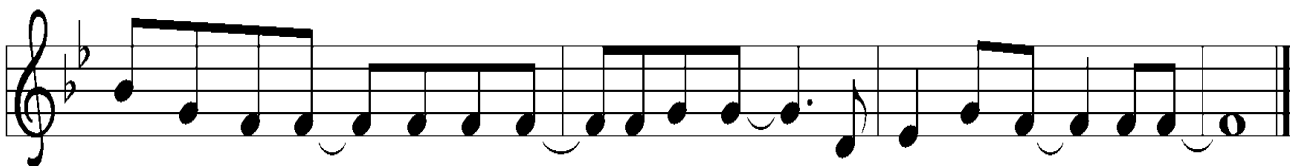
The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

**COMMUNION HYMN – “Now Behold the Lamb”  
(Sharlene Drummond Cantor)**

**Now Behold the Lamb**



1 Now be - hold the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God, who  
2 Ho - ly is the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Why  
3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Be -



bore all my sin, that I may live a - gain: the pre - cious Lamb of God.  
you love me so, Lord, I shall nev - er know; the pre - cious Lamb of God.  
cause of your grace I can fin - ish the race; the pre - cious Lamb of God.

Text: Kirk Franklin, b. 1970

Music: NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB, Kirk Franklin

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## **Prayer after Communion**

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS – Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.**

**HERE IS A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO DONATE TO UNITY VIA TEXT AND CREDIT CARD. SET UP VANCO ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE BY TEXTING TO (844)794-0738, AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS TO DONATE BY CREDIT CARD.**

**RAPID COVID TESTING is available to you at no cost at the Life Health Center (302) 552-3574, 1624 Jessup Street, Lower Level & at 7 Landers Lane (302) 429-4083. In and out within 15 minutes and with results. Call for an appointment.**

**Unity's young women's ministry (WELCA) is collecting donations for feminine hygiene products for community distribution. Needed items include: sanitary pads and tampons, body wash, soap, toothpaste/brushes, lotions shampoo/conditioner, small cosmetic bags,, purses, laundry detergent and toilet paper. More info – contact Rev Lorraine Dryden or Minister Cynthia (302-397-7913). Thank you.**

**Hospitality Baskets in Narthex – Tickets will be on sale following morning worship to benefit our hospitality ministry. \$1. For 1 ticket; \$2. For 3 tickets & \$5. For arm length. Drawing will be May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## **THE SENDING**

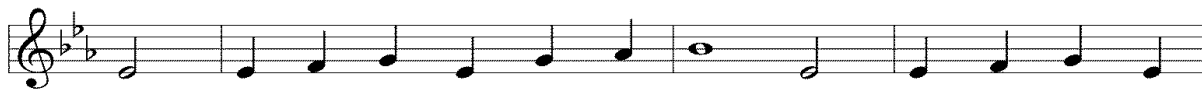
*God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.*

# BLESSING

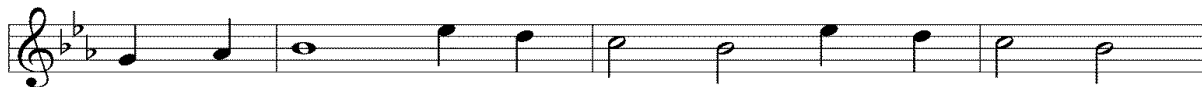
May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn "Now All The Vault of Heaven Resound" (Jean Krapf Cantor)

### Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set heart and will on  
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n - ly



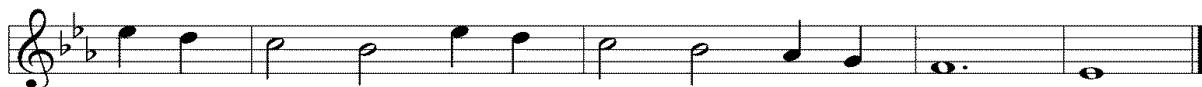
still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;  
bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song  
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -  
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives  
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"  
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**“Let us exit to serve”**

*We are called to reach up, reach in, and reach out.....*

**IF YOU HAVE ANYONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE @ 302-658-5288. THIS WEEK WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:**

**BETTY BACHER  
DICK ULLMAN  
ERIKA ULLMAN  
JIM PIETSCHMAN  
DOTTIE DODDS  
DELORES BOUZOUKIS  
CHARLIE, THERESA & GARY MILLER  
MARY DOUGLAS  
ALEXIS JOHNSON  
MYRA STOWELL & FAMILY  
SHARON WRIGHT  
THE DAWKINS FAMILY**

**PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT  
PASTOR MELISSA LEMONS  
UNITY CHURCH  
DWAINE BROWN  
JOAN MILLER  
MIKE (BRAD) BRADLEY  
ALLIE MAE BOUIE  
THE BURTON FAMILY  
MICHAEL DAVIS & FAMILY  
TRACY COOPER  
THE MILLER FAMILY**





HE IS RISEN

*celebrate the savior*

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