



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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March 31, 2024 – Resurrection Sunday Christ among Us!

I. GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

- <https://zoom.us/j/278905019>
- Or phone call-in # (312) 626-6799 and Meeting ID: 278 905 019
- One-Tab Mobile (iPhone) +16699009128,,278905019#

Prelude

“Easter Prelude on Victory” – Eliot
“Christ Lag in Todes banden” – Bach
“Toccatà on Christ the Lord is Risen” – Bish

Choral Call to Worship

“An Easter Call to Praise” – arr. Nordmeyer

Call to Worship (from Revelation 1:13-18)

The Son of Man, face shining like the sun, says “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.” Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

Welcome & Greeting One Another

Opening Hymn

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”—HWB #280
(verses 1-4, v. 4 in unison)

Confession and Reconciliation (from Psalm 30)

Leader: To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

**People: “What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the grave?
Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?
Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O Lord, be my helper!”**

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**People: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,
you have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

Leader: O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

**People: O LORD, you have brought up my soul from the grave;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit!**

Leader: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

**People: you have removed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

II. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Worship Music

"Up from the Grave" – arr. Hamilton

Children's Time

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9; John 19:41-20:18

Sermon

"The Cross, a Leap to Life"

Hymn of Response

"That Easter Day with joy was Bright" – HWB #281

III. RESPONDING TO JESUS CHRIST

Announcements & Offerings

- Today's **Worship offering**: Freeman Academy
- Today's **Sunday school offering**: Heifer International
- **Children's Offering**: Heifer International

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

IV. SENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Closing Hymn

"Christ is Alive! Let Christians sing" – HWB #278

Benediction

Our risen Lord makes all things new, and calls us by name.

Go in the peace of Christ, and in the faith and power of his resurrection.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

"Easter Postlude" – arr. Johnson

Greeters: Bob & Cheryl Wollmann; **Worship Leaders:** Brian & Wendy Miller;
Musicians: Sharla Unruh (organist), Chancel Choir, Linda Schrag (accompanist),
Brass: Donna Ries, Cheryle Gering, Brittney Kempf, trumpets; Paul Balzer,
trombone; Ben Carlson, tuba; **Speaker:** Pastor Spencer; **Children's Time:** Jeri
Butkus; **Coffee:** Class #10

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

We welcome all who are worshiping with us this morning! Coffee is available in the fellowship hall following the worship service. There are small cups with lids for children to use during coffee time. Parents, please tell and/or help your child use these cups.

THIS WEEK

Tues. (2nd) – Monthly Day of Prayer & Fasting, **7:30 p.m.** – Prayer Meeting

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85365395504>
- **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504 **Passcode:** prayer2020
- One tap mobile +13462487799,,85365395504# US (Houston)
- Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504

Wed. (3rd), 6:30 p.m. – Handbells; **7:30 p.m.** – Chancel Choir

8:30 p.m. – Ladies' Ensemble

Thurs. (4th), 9:30 a.m. – Early Bulletin Deadline

NEXT SUNDAY, April 7

Speaker: Pastor Spencer; **Worship Leader:** Jeri Butkus; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (Pianist), Ladies' Ensemble; **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Coffee:** Conference Room Class

Worship Offering: General Fund

Sunday school Offering: Salem Sunday School

Children's Offering: Heifer International

COMING EVENTS

April 8 – Deacon Board Meeting

April 9 – Mission & Service Team Meeting

April 11 – Christian Formation Meeting

April 19-21 – CPMC Leader's Retreat (Pastor Spencer & Renee plan to attend)

April 21 – Pastor Bob Will Be Preaching

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

Have you ever wondered how well you really know someone? Or when you meet someone new, do you want to know more about them? Maybe we don't know each other as well as we think? As Pastor Spencer and Renee have joined our congregation and desire to get to know us, we have put together a questionnaire that will help us all know each other better. The questionnaire, which will be in your church mailbox, will contain ten questions, please choose 5 to answer. Each Sunday we will share a minimum of 2 responses in a bulletin insert. Please fill out the questionnaire and return to the box on the table in the narthex by April 7th. Thank you for your participation!

Do any of the church departments or ministries have an update to the Policy Handbook or their particular Ministry Description? If so, please contact one of the current Policy Team members James Unruh or Paul Balzer. Thanks to Chantel Hofer and Marilyn Brockmueller for the May 2023 comprehensive updates of the Policy Handbook and Ministry Descriptions that are now on the church website. We will attempt to make minor revisions to these website documents on a yearly basis.

The Trustees are accepting bids for mowing the church grounds this summer. The job includes mowing and trimming all grass areas around the church, parsonage and cemetery. If interested please submit your written bid to Rodney Waltner by Monday, April 1, 2024.

Mark your calendars! This year North Church is hosting Vacation Bible School on June 3-7. We will be sending out more information as VBS gets closer, but if you want to volunteer early or have any questions, contact Bailey Carlson and Libby Miller.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

You are invited: The Bridgewater Cantata is singing “My King is Known by Love” on Sunday, April 7, 7:30 p.m. at Bridgewater Zion Bible Church.

Increasing our Understanding of the Conflict in the Middle East: On Sunday April 7, in the Freeman Community Center, three speakers will give a presentation that outlines the religious significance of the Holy Land from the perspective of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. The session will go from 2-4pm. Each speaker will offer a 20 min. presentation and then 10 min. of questions after. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to learn from these speakers.

Rural Revival will meet April 1 at 8:00 p.m. at the Freeman library. All are welcome to attend.

Spring has finally sprung! As you dive into spring cleaning, please consider donating your high-quality items to Et Cetera Shoppe. We have an extremely important mission right here in our own community: providing affordable clothing and home items for low-income and fixed-income community members. Many of our customers *depend* on Et Cetera Shoppe to furnish their homes and closets. We accept donations of clean, folded clothing, working household items, and good condition furniture pieces on Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. A thrift store can only be as good as the donations it receives, so help us to be the best we can!

Easter Lilies Were Donated

In Loving Memory of Irene Gross from Jake

In Loving Memory of Dr. Ernest & Elsie Hofer and Gloria & Merle Miller
from Dawn Stahl

In Loving Memory of Clarence Graber, Ray & Rosie Hofer and Jackson
Vetch from the David & Cindy Graber Family

In Loving Memory of Ryan Graber and Jerry Graber from their family

In Loving Memory of Lester & Doris Ries from Dennis & Shirley Ries

In Loving Memory of Melvin & Betty Schmeichel and Charley & Celia
Fliginger from Rodney & Vernetta Waltner

In Loving Memory of Lefty Ries and Karen Cressman from their family

SYMBOLS OF EASTER

Rich meaning can be found in the Easter symbols we delight in:

- Spring. The resurrection message seems to burst forth as the nature unfolds new life at this time.
- Baby bunnies, lambs, chicks, birds. These tiny creatures remind us that we are “new creatures” in Him because of Easter.
- The green, yellow, and lavender colors of springtime remind us of new life and the light and royalty of Jesus, our King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Eggs. As the life is sealed inside, so Christ’s resurrection life literally bursts from the shell of the tomb. In the Jewish tradition, eggs symbolize a freewill offering. God gives us far beyond what we deserve or even dare to ask: eternal life.

-from Let’s Make a Memory,
By Gloria Gaither and Shirley Dobson