



## Monroe United Methodist Church

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April 8, 2018

8:00 and 10:45 Worship

### The Church Gathers in God's Name

PRELUDE

Finlandia

Julie Shipe McClain  
Bell Choir (10:45)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Jesus – Easter's not over! Perhaps the flowers are drooping or the chocolate is stale; but there's more to Easter than flowers and candy. I will never stop celebrating the resurrection. Please keep your loving deeds fresh in my heart at all times. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING CHORUS

Up From the Grace He Arose  
Robert Lowry, 1874

**Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,  
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!**

**Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph over his foes;  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever with his saints to reign.**

**He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain #315

UNISON PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Jesus has burst forth from the tomb and gone ahead of us into the world.

He waits to meet us as we take his grace to the hardest places.

But we try to lock him in our churches, conforming him to our habits,  
display him to outsiders as we see fit,

celebrate holidays about him, not with him or for him,

or take him along on pious excursions as if he belonged to us.

How pathetic! How arrogant! How futile!

Forgive our condescension. Let us receive the fullness of new life on

Christ's terms, not ours. Let us be energized beyond the holiday for  
resurrection living all our days. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

### The Church Hears God's Word

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Who Was St Paul?

SPECIAL MUSIC

And Can It Be  
The Lowest Place

Tim Soddy (8:00)  
Chancel Choir (10:45)

EPISTLE READING

1 John 1:1-2:2, NLT

The one who existed from the beginning is the one we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is Jesus Christ, the Word of life. This one who is life from God was shown to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and announce to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was shown to us. We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard, so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

We are writing these things so that our joy will be complete.

This is the message he has given us to announce to you: God is light and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness. We are not living in the truth. But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin.

If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if you do sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who pleases God completely. He is the sacrifice for our sins. He takes away not only our sins but the sins of the whole world

#### GOSPEL READING

John 20: 19-29, The Message

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master."

But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

#### SERMON

## The Church Responds to God

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS AND JOYS

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PERSONAL PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Amen.**

HYMN

Christ Has Risen

John Bell

**Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died;  
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.**

**Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;  
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!**

**Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;  
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.  
Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room.  
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.**

**Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change  
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.  
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been –  
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.**

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DEPART WITH BLESSING



April Stewardship Message

God knows when we are generous with our money,  
and when we make excuses to keep our money to ourselves.  
"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD,  
and he will repay him for his deed." Proverbs 19:17

CLOSING HYMN

Faith We Sing 2115 just 3 verses PowerPoint