

Contemporary Service
 Easter Sunday
 Mar 31, 2024
 Worship Series: Draw the Circle Wide
 Message: Ripples of New Beginnings

Easter Dramatic Reading

PASTOR: Today we celebrate, because He. Is. Risen!

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Praise Songs Christ the Lord is Risen Today, 7019316
 Living Hope, 7106807

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Melissa

*Centering Song Resurrecting, 7051507

*Prayer Pastor Melissa

Pastor: Let us pray

**People: Living God,
 rejoicing in this day of resurrection,
 we have come to celebrate
 the strength of Your love—
 a love that triumphs even over death.
 We thank You for the opportunity
 to encounter the Risen Christ
 here in our midst.**

**As we witness the power of Christ's resurrection today,
 use us as Your instruments of love and grace
 to spread ripples of new life in the world. AMEN.**

Children's Moment

Linda Biscardo

Easter Prayers

Sarah Chambers

Offering Song Glory, Honor, Power, 7147455

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Melissa

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Sam Patricola

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Message *Ripples of New Beginnings*

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Invitation to Communion

Sarah Chambers

As we come to this table with the risen Jesus, we are witnesses to the resurrection! Let us forsake all that holds us back from this joy as we offer our confession.

Prayer of Confession

Risen Lord,

we have seen the empty tomb,

and yet we sometimes act as if we have seen nothing.

We continue to doubt Your power and presence in our lives.

We fail to trust Your promises.

We live as people without hope.

Help us to remember the words of the angel who said,

"Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

Forgive us and raise us up to abundant new life

through the power of Your love. AMEN.

Assurance and Pardon

Leader: Darkness is gone! Light floods into our souls!
 Christ is Risen! His love and mercy are poured out for you.
 Rejoice!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Alleluia! AMEN.

The Great Thanksgiving

UMH 13

Pastor Melissa

The Lord be with you.

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing . . .

And so, we Your people on earth

and with all the company of heaven

praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are You . . . And so, in remembrance
 of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
 we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
 as a holy and living sacrifice,
 in union with Christ's offering for us,
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Music During Communion: *Christ is Risen, 5242683*

**Prayer Following Communion Eternal God,
 we give You thanks for this holy mystery
 in which You have given Yourself to us.
 Grant that we may go into the world
 in the strength of Your Spirit,
 to give ourselves to others
 in the name of Jesus Christ, **our Risen Lord and Savior.** AMEN.**

*Closing Song *My Redeemer Lives, 2397964*

*Benediction Pastor Melissa

Postlude *My Redeemer Lives (Reprise)*