The Lord's Day Service *of* Festival Worship

Easter Day:
The Resurrection *of* Our Lord Jesus Christ

✠

Sunday, April 09, *Anno Domini* 2023
08:30 *a.m.* & 11:00 *a.m.* | The Sanctuary

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Salisbury, North Carolina

The Worship *of* Almighty God

✠*denotes the People stand, in body or in spirit, as able.* *The People's responses are printed in* **bold**.
Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.

— Gathering —

During the service, we invite you to ring your bells whenever the word "Alleluia!"/"Hallelujah!" appears, whether spoken or sung. After the service, please return your bells in the baskets at the doors as you exit.

Silent Prayer *of* Preparation *for* Worship

O God, who for our redemption gave Your only begotten Son to die upon the Cross, and by His glorious Resurrection delivered us from the devil and the power of death: Grant us grace to die daily to sin, that we may live with Him in the joy of His resurrection; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

Greeting — The Reverend Dr. Mark Conforti

Prelude — Peals of Praise Handbell Ensemble and Ed Scibilia, *organ*

O Filii et Filiae (O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!) — by Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

This ancient Christian hymn celebrating Easter is attributed to Jean Tisserand (d. 1497), a Franciscan friar. A 19th-century English translation from the 15th-century Latin text, which makes up the Easter Sunday potion of the longer, 12 stanza hymn is printed in Hymn No. 317. The tune is a 15th-century French chant that probably originated outside the church but was adapted for religious texts.

(At the conclusion of the prelude,
please stand and turn to face the rear entrance to the Nave.)

✠ Easter Acclamation *and* Call *to* Worship

Pastor: *Alleluia!* Christ is risen!
All (shout): **He is risen indeed! *Alleluia!***
Pastor: The grace of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God the Father,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: My brothers and sisters in Christ: on this most holy morning in which Jesus Christ our Lord passed over from death to life, we gather as the Church to worship and pray. This is the Passover of Christ, in which we share in Christ's victory over death.

✠ Opening Prayer *(in unison)*

Eternal God, through Jesus Christ
You have bestowed upon the world Your one true light of life.
Sanctify this new fire,
and grant that our hearts and minds may also be kindled
with holy desire by the fire of Your love
to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising,
that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light
and the radiance of Your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

✠ LIGHTING *of* THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Pastor: Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to Him, and all ages; to Him be glory and power, through every age and forever. By His holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.
The light of Christ rises in glory,
overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

All: ***Amen.***

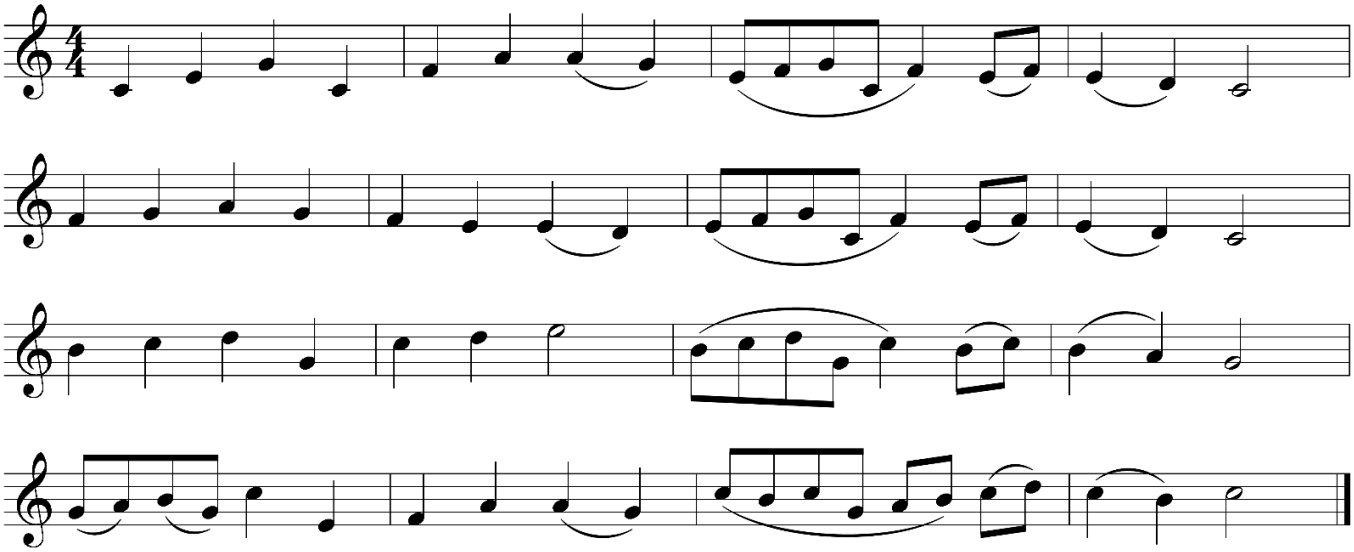
(The Paschal candle is lighted and lifted so that all may see it.)

Pastor: Christ is our light!
People: **Thanks be to God!**
Pastor: *Alleluia!* Christ is risen!
All (shout): **THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED! *ALLELUIA!***

✠ PROCESSIONAL HYMN *(All sing)* EASTER HYMN

A Hymn for Easter Day *(sts. 1–4)* arr. Don Marsh (b. 1957)

Charles Wesley composed his "Hymn for Easter Day" in eleven stanzas – which will be sung in their entirety throughout the course of today's service! As we sing this song, we are first brought back two millennia as "witnesses" of the resurrection, and then we are also made aware that though the actual event of the resurrection happened once, it is in a sense an on-going event with ever-present effects. We are called today to live out of the resurrection, to follow our risen Lord in newness of life, and to ever lift our "alleluias" in praise!



1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day," *Alleluia!*
Sons of Men and Angels, say! *Alleluia!*
Raise your Joys and Triumphs high, *Alleluia!*
Sing ye Heavens; and Earth reply. *Alleluia!*

2. Love's Redeeming Work is done, *Alleluia!*
Fought the Fight, the Battle won, *Alleluia!*
Lo! our Sun's Eclipse is o'er, *Alleluia!*
Lo! He sets in Blood no more. *Alleluia!*

3. Vain the Stone, the Watch, the Seal; *Alleluia!*
Christ hath burst the Gates of Hell! *Alleluia!*
Death in vain forbids His Rise: *Alleluia!*
Christ hath opened Paradise! *Alleluia!*

4. Lives again our glorious King, *Alleluia!*
Where, O Death, is now thy Sting? *Alleluia!*
Once He died our Souls to save, *Alleluia!*
Where thy Victory, O Grave? *Alleluia!*

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: *Lyra Davidica,* 1708.
Public Domain.

CALL *to* CONFESSION *from I John 1.8–9; Hebrews 4.14, 16*

Liturgist: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,**
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Liturgist: Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession and with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Silence follows for personal reflection and private confession.)

CONFESSION *of* SIN *(in unison)*

Holy God,
before You our hearts are open,
and from You no secrets are hidden.
We bring to You now our shame and sorrow for our sins.
We have forgotten that our life is from You and unto You.
We have neither sought nor done Your will.
We have not been truthful in our hearts, in our speech, in our lives.
We have not loved as we ought to love.
Help us and heal us,
raising us from our sins into an abundant and new life,
that we may end our days in peace,
trusting in Your mercy and loving-kindness unto the end;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit:
One God, now and forever. *Amen.*

ASSURANCE *of* GOD'S PARDON

Liturgist: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, Christ who died for us, who rose for us, who reigns at God's right hand and prays for us. (Romans 8.34)

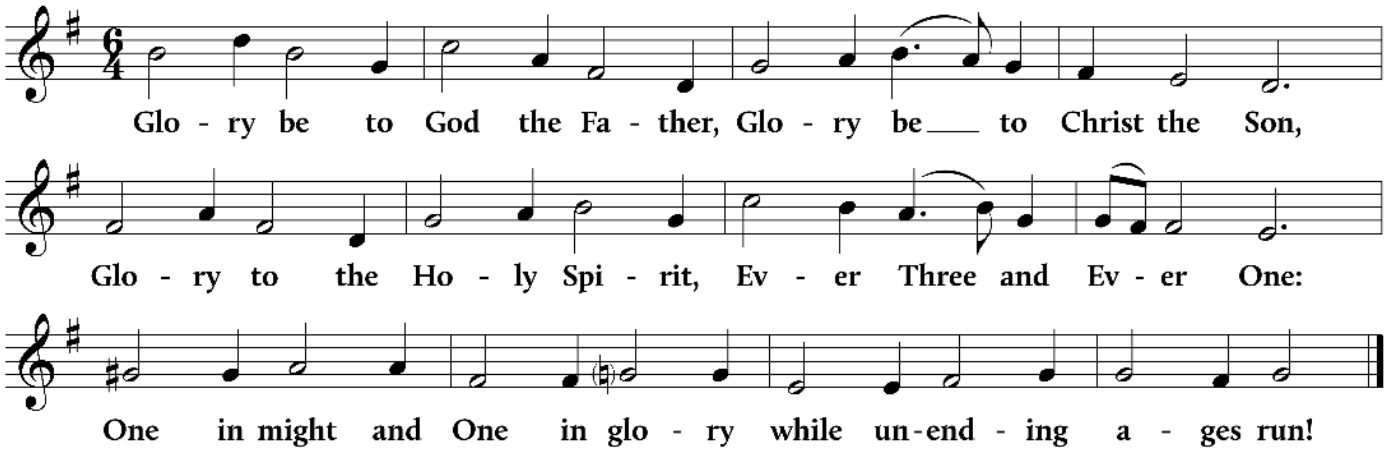
People: **Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

All (shout): ***HALLELUJAH!*** (I Corinthians 15.57)

(As we sing, the children are invited forward to be seated on the chancel steps.)

ACCLAMATION *of* PRAISE *(All sing)* WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Gloria Patri *(Latin: "Glory be to the Father")*



Words: *Gloria Patri*, VII Century Latin; trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), 1861; alt.
Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY; Henry Purcell (1659-1695), 1680.

— Proclamation *of* God's Holy Word —

Children's Moment — Bailee Weisensel

Prayer *for* Illumination *(in unison)* — Jeff Matthews | Tracy Walser

Almighty God,
who through Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
Grant that we,
who celebrate with joy this Day of the Lord's Resurrection,
may, by the reading of Your Holy Word
and the renewing of Your life-giving Spirit
be delivered from sin and raised from death
to righteousness and newness of everlasting life;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit:
One God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

First Lesson — ***Acts 10.34–43*** — Pew Bible, NT: *pp. 129–30*

Lector: ...This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

Gradual Anthem — Choir and Peals of Praise Handbell Ensemble
A Hymn for Easter Day (sts. 5–7) — arr. Mark Schweizer (1956–2019)
Joshua DeFalco, *horn*

5. Soar we now, where Christ has led,
Following our Exalted Head,
Made like Him, like Him we rise:
Ours the Cross; the Grave; the Skies.

6. What though once we perished All,
Partners in our Parent's Fall?
Second Life we All receive,
In our Heavenly *Adam* live.

7. Risen with Him, we upward move,
Still we seek the Things above;
Still pursue, and kiss the Son,
Seated on His Father's Throne!

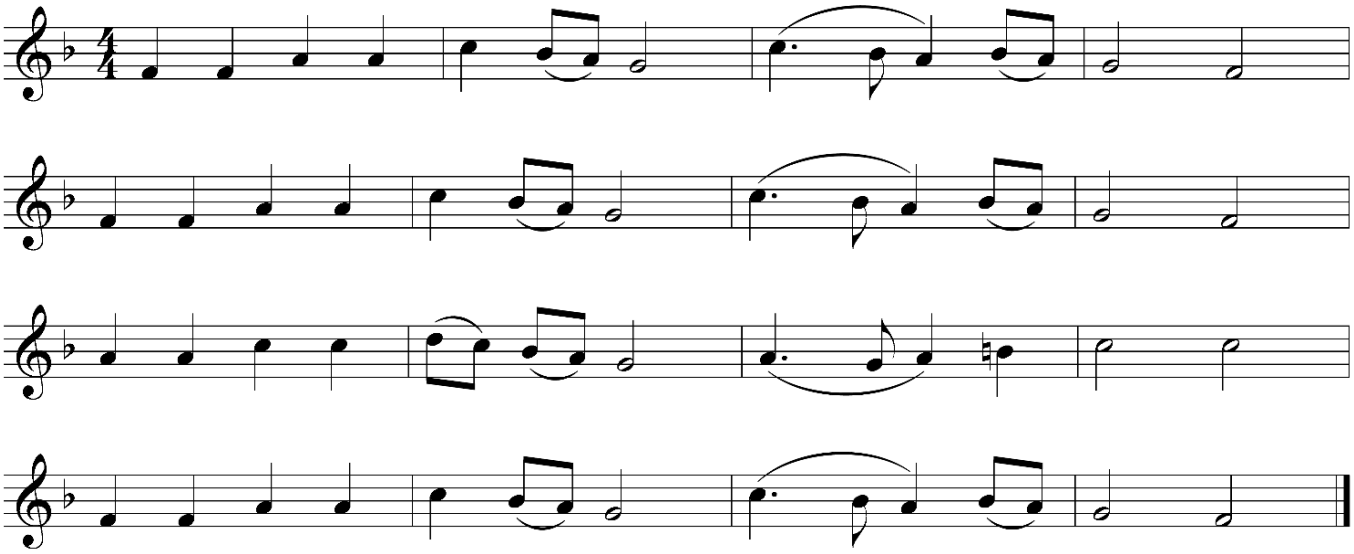
Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Mark Schweizer;
© 2014 St. James Music Press.

Second Lesson — ***Colossians 3.1–4*** — Pew Bible, NT: *p. 201*

Lector: ...This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

✠ SEQUENCE HYMN *(All sing)* LLANFAIR

A Hymn for Easter Day *(sts. 8–11)* arr. Don Marsh (b. 1957)



8. Scarce on Earth a Thought bestow, *Alleluia!*
Dead to all we leave below, *Alleluia!*
Heav'n our Aim, and loved Abode, *Alleluia!*
Hid our life with Christ in GOD! *Alleluia!*

9. Hid; 'till Christ our Life appear, *Alleluia!*
Glorious in His Members here: *Alleluia!*
Joined to Him, we then shall shine, *Alleluia!*
All Immortal, all Divine! *Alleluia!*

10. Hail the Lord of Earth and Heaven! *Alleluia!*
Praise to Thee by both be given: *Alleluia!*
Thee we greet Triumphant now; *Alleluia!*
Hail the Resurrection Thou! *Alleluia!*

11. King of Glory, Soul of Bliss, *Alleluia!*
Everlasting life is This: *Alleluia!*
Thee to know, Thy Power to prove, *Alleluia!*
Thus to sing, and thus to love! *Alleluia!*

Words: Charles Wesley, 1743. Music: Robert Williams, 1817.
Public Domain.

✠ GOSPEL LESSON ***Matthew 28.1–10*** Pew Bible, NT: *pp. 33–34*

Pastor: ...This is the Word of God for the People of God.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

— RESPONSE *to* GOD'S HOLY WORD —

✠ THE AFFIRMATION *of* OUR FAITH ***The Apostles' Creed***

Liturgist: God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ Jesus. Living together in trust and hope, let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, using the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day He rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick* and the dead. *(*living)*

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,** *(**Christian/universal)*
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

✠ THE PEACE *of* THE LORD *(responsively)* *from John 14.27*

Liturgist: Our Lord Jesus told His disciples, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."
The peace of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Liturgist: Christ's resurrection and life is our peace. Let us share signs of reconciliation and love with one another.

(You are invited greet those around you with the words "Peace be with you" before being seated.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM — Choir
Written in Red — arr. Camp Kirkland

In letters of crimson God wrote His love
on a hillside so long, long ago.
For you and for me Jesus died, and love's greatest story was told:

"I love you, I love you," that's what Calvary said.
"I love you, I love you, I love you" — written in red.

Down through the ages God wrote His love
with the same hands that suffered and bled;
Giving all He had to give, a message so easily read:...

Oh, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.
There is no other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus!...

Words and Music: Gordon Jensen and Robert Lowry; © 1984 *Word Music, LLC.*
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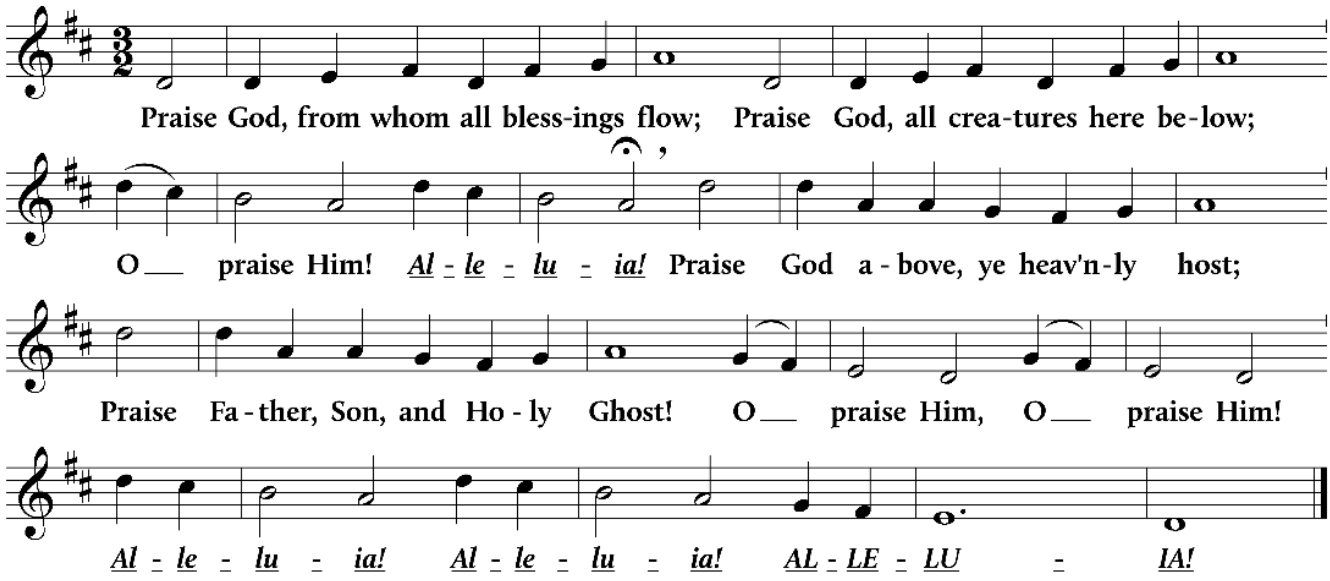
✠ DOXOLOGY *at* THE PRESENTATION *of* GIFTS *(All sing)* LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN; *Geistliche Kirchengesänge,* 1623;
harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

✠ OFFERTORY PRAYER *of* DEDICATION *and* THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS *of* THE PEOPLE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: ...Risen Lord, in Your mercy:
People: **hear our prayer...**

concluding with THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)* *from Matthew 6.9b–13*

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.*]

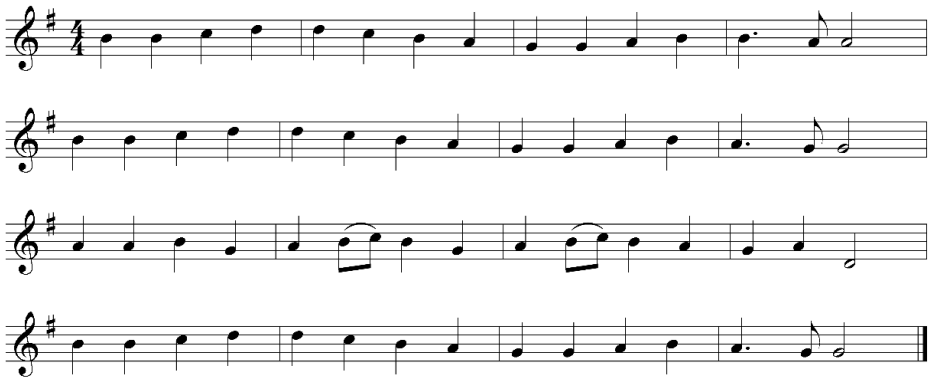
(11:00) RECEPTION *and* WELCOME *of* NEW MEMBERS

✠ BENEDICTION

(You are invited to bow your head and extend your hands for the blessing.)

— Sending Forth —

✠ Sending Hymn *(All sing)* ODE TO JOY
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! arr. Don Marsh (b. 1957)



All: **1. *Hallelujah! Hallelujah!* Hearts to Heaven and voices raise;**
Sing to God a Hymn of gladness, sing to God a Hymn of praise.
He who on the Cross a Victim for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead!

All: **2. *Hallelujah!* Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:**
See the ancient powers of evil in confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried: now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, whom we worship and adore!

Men: **3. Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born,**
Glorious life, and life immortal, on this holy Easter Morn:
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by His mighty enterprise,
We with Christ to life eternal by His resurrection rise!

All: **4. Christ is risen, we are risen! Set your hearts on things above:**
There in all the Father's glory lives and reigns our King of Love;
Hear the word of peace He brings us, see His wounded hands and side!
Now let every wrong be ended, every sin be crucified.

Women: **5. Christ is risen, Christ the First-fruits of the holy Harvest-field,**
Which will all its full abundance at His Second Coming yield;
Then the golden ears of Harvest will their heads before Him wave,
Ripened by His glorious sunshine, from the furrows of the grave.

All (a cappella): **6. Christ is risen, we are risen. Shed upon us heavenly grace,**
Rain and dew and gleams of glory from the brightness of Thy Face,
That we, Lord, with hearts in Heaven here on earth may fruitful be,
And by Angel-hands be gathered, and be ever safe with Thee.

All: **7. *Hallelujah! Hallelujah!* Glory be to God on high,**
To the Father and the Saviour, Who has gained the victory;
Glory to the Holy Spirit, Fount of Love and Sanctity;
***Hallelujah! Hallelujah!* to the Triune Majesty!**

Words: sts. 1, 3, 5–7: Christopher Wordsworth (1807–1885), 1865; sts. 2 & 4: ©1982 *Jubilate Hymns Ltd.;* admin. *Hope Publishing Co.*
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796–1867), 1824; Public Domain.

✠ COMMISSION *and* DISMISSAL *into* THE MISSION FIELD

Pastor: *Alleluia! Alleluia!* Let us go forth in the Name of the Risen Lord to make and nurture Christian disciples through the presence and power of God.

All (shout): **THANKS BE TO GOD! *ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!***

POSTLUDE — Missy Brown, *piano* and Ed Scibilia, *organ*

Christ the Lord is Risen Today! — arr. A. Laurence Lyon (1934–2006)

(As you exit, please return your bells in the baskets at the doors.)

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" *to* TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Missy Brown, *piano*

Parker Cox, *percussion*

Josh DeFalco, *french horn*

Jen Fogt, *cello*

Austin Massaquoi, *alto saxophone*

Ed Scibilia, *organ*

Peals of Praise Handbell Ensemble & Choir Members

Joshua Starnes, *Director of Music & Worship Arts Ministry*

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Glory to God Alone

The Easter Hydrangeas Adorning the Sanctuary are Given *to* the Greater Glory *of* God *and* with Thanksgiving *for* the Saving Grace *of* Christ's Resurrection

— In Memory Of —

Jeannette Altieri
by Jeanmarie Burton

Mr. Henry H. Buck, Jr.
by Becca Blackmon

Debbie Carter
by Carolyn Peck

Russell & Julie Hughes
by Amy Foote

Mr. Bill Linn and
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur J. Shuping
by Susan Linn

Our Parents:
Dr. & Mrs. C. K. Brown and
Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. Allen
by Henry & Missy Brown

Mr. Henry H. Buck, Jr.
by Jeanne Maynard

Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Gresham and
Mr. & Mrs. Tracy Jones
by Robert Gresham

Adrienne Jones
by Bobby & Deneen Jones

Olivia Maready
by Bobby & Deneen Jones

My Father, John Wesley Yon
by Larry Yon

— In Honor Of —

Our Wonderful Parents:
Henry & Missy Brown
by Elizabeth Bergsma and Celia Bueche

Our Daughter:
Celia Bueche and her family
by Henry & Missy Brown

Reid & Mary Sue Leonard
by Carolyn Peck

Our Daughter:
Elizabeth Bergsma and her family
by Henry & Missy Brown

Our Children: Walt and Kelsie, and
Granddaughters: Caroline and Ellie
by Jay & Mike Hughes

Our Grandchildren:
Stewart, Cora, Brayden, and Renley
by Jeff & Gloria Matthews

The Music & Worship Arts Ministry of First United Methodist Church
by Barbara Senter-Cordts

About the cover art:

"Easter Morning" by The Rev. Cara B. Hochhalter, 2019.
Luke 24:1-9

"Hallelujah! This hard-to-believe story is the exuberance of faith—it is the exclamation mark! It is a story that puzzles many and inspires others. It is the promise of life after death in a dimension we cannot understand as of yet. It is a metaphor for the hope and the light that keeps us going even when things seem like they cannot get any worse. It is the powerful notion that we need not be afraid; that in the love of an unimaginable and unending God, we can keep on living a life of faith, seeking peace and justice in our world... The Infinite God of Peace—rises, still and always, in this great continuum of life!"

For more information about the piece and the artist, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/mr4unr2p.

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SALISBURY, NC
EST. 1783

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"To make and nurture Christian disciples through the presence and power of God."