

EASTER
April 5, 2026, 9:15 am

Welcome to worship at Mount Olivet on this glorious Easter Sunday! Our Lord is risen! We worship a God of hope, restoration, resurrection, and new life! May our worship be filled with that joy and assurance that Christ is with us always.

Gathering

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

PRELUDE

Te Deum

Charles Callahan

INTROIT

He is Risen

Craig Courtney

He is risen! Christ is risen! Christ, the Lord is risen, indeed! Prophecy now is fulfilled in the crucified Lord. Death could not hold Him, the temple destroyed is restored. The power of sin has been broken by God's only Son. Christ over Satan has triumphed, our victory won! He is risen! Christ, the Lord is risen, indeed! Come to the tomb, it is open, the stone rolled away. He is not here, He is risen, oh, glorious day! Join in the glad celebration of Jesus, the King. Sing to the world of His victory, sing to Him, sing! Christ is risen! Amen!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

He is Risen!

Christ is Risen, Indeed!

Alleluia!

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship our good-news Christ.

*HYMN #302 Christ the Lord is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One,

all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story.

All over the world, people are gathering to hear how death lost

its sting. All over the world, people are gathering together,

praying for a glimpse of you. So, like our neighbors all over the

world, we pray, be here. Speak to us today. Soften the calloused

parts of our hearts until we can sense your Holy Spirit in our

midst once more. With eagerness and hope, we run to the tomb.

We sing alleluia. We bow our heads. We listen for you. Amen.

Word

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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28: 1-10

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ 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." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(After Children's Moment, children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Children's Church in Room L8, located downstairs. Children will return to the Sanctuary to receive Communion with their families.)

SERMON

~ Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling

*HYMN #310 He Lives

ACKLEY

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Gracious God,

we want to be Easter people.

We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.

We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you.

We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid,"

but we are afraid.

And we don't know where to look.

And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.

So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.

We are best intentions and best laid plans.

We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias."

We are on our way, but we are not there yet.

Show us how to embody your good news in this world.

Show us how to be your Easter people.

With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.

Family of faith,

even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias," we

belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is

nothing that could keep God's love at bay.

So join me in this good news declaration:

Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.

This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God.

Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Hear our prayer.**)*

Thanksgiving

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

To the Lamb on the Throne Dan Forrest, Text: Charles Wesley (1744)
Worthy the Lamb. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad His wonderful name; the name, all victorious of Jesus extol; His kingdom is glorious and rules over all. Worthy the Lamb, salvation to God, who sits on the throne! Let all cry aloud and honor the Son; the praises of Jesus, the angels proclaim, fall down on their faces, and worship the lamb. God rules in the height, almighty to save; though hid from our sight, His presence we have, the great congregation His triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King. Worthy the Lamb. Then let us adore and give Him His right, all glory and power, all wisdom, and might; all honor and blessing with angels above, and thanks never ceasing and infinite love. Worthy the Lamb!

*DOXOLOGY #95

OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

See Musical Setting A, pp. 17A-18A in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.
[We offer a gluten-free element option and always use grape juice, not wine]

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken)*

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Fraction Anthem, Agnus Dei

Gerald R. Near

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins:

have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

I am Not My Own

Craig Courtney

I am not my own, not in body, not in soul, in life, nor even death. I

belong unto my faithful savior, Jesus Christ. I am not my own. His

own blood has ransomed me, from evil set me free. For my salvation,

all things work together, in eternal life He gives me hope. By the

power of His Holy Spirit, I will live for Him. I am not my own, I will

live for Him forever and evermore.

Alleluia Andrew Miller
Alleluia, Alleluia! Lift your voice to the Lord, give your thanks, give your praise. All glory and honor are yours forever more. Alleluia!

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*HYMN #303 The Day of Resurrection LANCASHIRE

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah (c. 1741)

George Frederic Handel

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth,
Hallelujah! The Kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings and Lord of Lords, forever and ever Hallelujah!

Leading Today's Worship Service:

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling, Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

Liturgist: Kay Summers

Organist/Choirmaster: Jonathan Saint-Thomas

Children's Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Acolytes: Alanna Cole, Jacob Cole

Mount Olivet Choir: Ryan Brown, Emily Dozier, Doug George, Susan Leland, Robert Martinson, Jim Maxstadt, Karen McElfish, Jim McElfish, Kim Mullin, Eric Myers, Cindy Newcomb (Music Ministry Assistant), Janet Oak, Drew Pathwick, Lou Phelps, Vince Price, Jill Ramirez, John Roehl, Kim Roehl

Mount Olivet Brass Quarter: Nick Serbu - Trumpet, Ryan Fuhrman - Trumpet, Chandler Comer - Trombone, Zach Sellers - Trombone

Join us for Easter Breakfast in the Youth Area from
10 - 11:15 AM.

*Childcare is available for infants to age 3 until 12:15 PM.
The nursery is located on this floor, to the left of the Sanctuary.*

* * *

*Please stand, as able, for those acts of worship marked with
an asterisk*.*

Words in bold type indicate a congregational response.

LENTEN OFFERINGS

Our Lenten Offerings this year will benefit two organizations, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) and UMC Apportionment Ministries.

OAR is a community-based nonprofit organization that envisions a safe and thriving community where those impacted by the legal system enjoy equal civil and human rights.

UMC Apportionment Ministries support Christian missions worldwide, education of ministry students, Historic Black Colleges, Africa University, interdenominational cooperation, and more.

You can donate at the giving link on our website or use the Lenten Offering envelope in the pew rack.

Announcements

Great News...FINAL Fire Update!

We are excited to report that Mount Olivet has passed our fire and building inspections and have OPENED THE DOORS this Easter! The congregation will be able to enter and exit through the gathering space at the 16th Street or Glebe Road doors and have access to the elevator today. Given that we are still cleaning and moving into the spaces over the next week, we will only open the gathering space today and coffee service will be outside of the preschool doors on the opposite side of the sanctuary. We will fully open the doors, with cake and coffee, and have a blessing of our restored spaces on Sunday, April 19. We will also have a grand opening for the congregation and our neighbors on Saturday, May 2. Please stay tuned for more information about these celebrations. After three years of restoration, we are so excited to finally share the spaces with you. Thank you again for all of your patience, emotional and financial support, and prayers during the long rebuilding process.

Discover Mount Olivet Classes

You don't have to rush the journey. Discover Mount Olivet offers space to learn, ask questions, and explore how God might be calling you deeper into the life of this church. Two April Zoom classes will be scheduled at times convenient for participants. Sign up at the link on our website, and a member of the Witness and Welcome team will contact you to arrange your class.

**Find additional announcements and more on our website
mountolivetumc.com or subscribe to our weekly e-news.**

*Register your attendance using the QR code below or by using the
attendance card located in the pew rack.*

