

UNITED METHODIST EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

April 12, 2020 | 7:00am

Ledford's Chapel | Hickory Stand | Oak Forest | Hayesville First UMC

OPENING LITURGY

Long ago, a small group gathered at Christ's tomb while it was still dark. Most of Jesus' followers were scattered about – in small groups, in homes, mourning the death of their Lord. Those who gathered at the tomb expected to find death, but instead found the stone rolled away. And because they shared what they saw, we no longer expect death. Today we cannot gather in person, but instead we gather in small groups or as individuals, in homes, connected by the Holy Spirit and the good news of the resurrection. We gather because we know the tomb is empty.

Christ has risen!

Christ has risen indeed.

Faith, hope, and joy are alive.

A new age is dawning, and death cannot harm us.

God of all creation, we praise you.

God of resurrection and eternal life, we have gathered to worship you and celebrate your victory.

OPENING PRAYER

SONG:

Christ Is Risen- Matt Maher

Let no one caught in sin remain, inside the lie of inward shame
But fix our eyes upon the cross, And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us. Freely You have bled for us

Refrain:

Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake, Come and rise up from the grave
Christ is risen from the dead, We are one with Him again
Come awake, come awake, Come and rise up from the grave

Beneath the weight of all our sin, You bowed to none but heaven's will
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown, No burden great can hold You down
In strength You reign, Forever let Your church proclaim

Refrain

○ death, where is your sting? ○ hell, where is your victory?

○ church, come stand in the light

The glory of God has defeated the night.

○ death, where is your sting? ○ hell, where is your victory?

○ church, come stand in the light

Our God is not dead, He's alive! He's alive!

Refrain x2

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:1-18

SERMON

Rev. Nikki Baten

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

(UMH #881)

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

On this Easter morning, we cannot gather in person. But Christ gathers us nonetheless, uniting us as His body in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not having our usual Easter celebrations of food and family and friends, but Christ is risen. We cannot come to this table to eat the body and blood of Christ, as much as we hunger to do so, but still we are nourished by Christ's body and blood. And so, we give thanks today, trusting that the memories we hold in our bodies of this meal and Christ's transcending presence will sustain us until the time when we can gather around this table once again.

God of power and majesty:

With the rising of the sun you have raised Jesus Christ
and delivered him from death's destruction.

By water and the Spirit, you unite us with Christ,
that those who share in his cross
may surely share in his victory over death.

All things come from you,
and we praise you on this bright day for all your gifts of new life.

You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image.

When our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior,
that we might have abundant and eternal life.

All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you.

And so, in gratitude for all that you have done,
we offer you ourselves, and all that we have,
in union with Christ's offering for us.

By your Holy Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has taught us when we pray to say,

**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.**

BENEDICTION

SONG OF SENDING

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (UMH #302)

You're invited to go outside and boldly sing (or proclaim) that Christ is risen!

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus 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!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's the victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!