

## Grace United Methodist Church



**March 31, 2024 - 10:00AM**

**Order of Worship  
EASTER**

**Grace United Methodist Church is a Family of Faith  
striving to share God's love with all.**

**\* Please Stand If You Are Able**

**Opening Voluntary – He Lives, *Arr. S. Landon***

**Choral Introit**

**Welcome/Greetings**

**\* Call to Worship**

L: The darkness is gone!

**P: Bright light floods into this new day of hope.**

L: Those who went to the tomb received good news.

**P: Christ was not there!**

L: Christ is risen in our hearts and our spirits!

**P: Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia! Amen!**

**\* Opening Hymn #302 – “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”**

*EASTER HYMN*

## \*Opening Prayer

**Loving, Powerful God, joy floods over our souls on this day! Christ is risen! Fear is vanquished! Open our hearts and our spirits to fully receive the joy which has been given for us! Let us celebrate the victory of Christ and the hope for the future! Amen!**

## **Children's Sermon – "Recognizing Resurrected Jesus"**

### **Scriptures**

#### **Epistle – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Brothers and sisters, I want to call your attention to the good news that I preached to you, which you also received and in which you stand. <sup>2</sup>You are being saved through it if you hold on to the message I preached to you, unless somehow you believed it for nothing. <sup>3</sup>I passed on to you as most important what I also received: Christ died for our sins in line with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>he was buried, and he rose on the third day in line with the scriptures. <sup>5</sup>He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve, <sup>6</sup>and then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once—most of them are still alive to this day, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup>and last of all he appeared to me, as if I were born at the wrong time. <sup>9</sup>I'm the least important of the apostles. I don't deserve to be called an apostle, because I harassed God's church. <sup>10</sup>I am what I am by God's grace, and God's grace hasn't been for nothing. In fact, I have worked harder than all the others—that is, it wasn't me but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>So then, whether you heard the message from me or them, this is what we preach and this is what you have believed.

L: The Word of God, For the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

#### \***Gospel – John 20:1-18** (*Please stand if you are able*)

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7

and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes. 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

L: The Word of God, For the People of God. P: **Thanks be to God.**

**Westminster Ringers** Let There Be Peace on Earth, *Arr. C. Dobrinski*

\***Hymn before Message #314** – “In the Garden”

*GARDEN*

**Message** – “Called by Name”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer and Choral Response**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us throughout our Lenten journey. You have celebrated our successes and our growing understanding of your love; and you have mourned our failures and**

rejections of your healing mercies. This day, as we have gathered to celebrate the joy of Easter, let us remember that we are to become “Easter People”, people of the Resurrection; people who know that what was thought to be impossible has been conquered. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Fill us with your healing love and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world. For we ask this in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance**

Darkness is gone! Light floods into our souls! Christ is Risen! His love and mercy are poured out for you. Rejoice! You have been saved through the gift of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Christ is risen! Share this great news with one another as we offer signs of joy and love by passing the peace of Christ.

### **Invitation to Tithes and Offering**

L: Give thanks to God.

**P: God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

L: God is our strength and our salvation.

**P: God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

L: God does not give us over to death, but to life.

**P: God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

L: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

**P: God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

L: Sharing our gratitude, let us offer signs of God’s love in the giving of our tithes and our offerings.

**Choral Selection** – Hallelujah Chorus, *G. F. Händel*

\* **Hymn No. 95** - Presentation of the Offering

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

God of the victory of life over death; on this glorious Easter Sunday, we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Just as the women encountered the empty tomb and the angelic message of new life, we too encounter the living Christ in our hearts and lives. As we come to present our tithes and offerings, may they be an affirmation of our search for the risen Christ, the one who challenges us to see beyond our own expectations. Bless our giving and help us discover the transformative power of the living Jesus in our lives. In the holy name of our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.

**Closing Hymn #327 - Crown Him with Many Crowns**

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**Closing Voluntary** – He Lives, *H. Ackley*  
*(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)*

<p><b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker</p> <p><b>Liturgist/Reader:</b> Dr. Tonia Ukanwoke</p> <p><b>Director of Music:</b> Kenneth Richardson</p> <p><b>Westminster Ringers Bell Ensemble</b> <b>Director:</b> Kim Neri</p>	<p><b>Counting Team:</b> Debbie Nicosia</p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano</p> <p><b>Audio-Tech:</b> Brandon Gauntlett</p>
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**Our Guest Musicians:**

**Trumpet**

Andrew Hochler  
Geraldo F Marshall

**Trombone**

Eric Miller  
Robert Stringer

**Timpani/Perc**

Billy Lang



♥Manny Kurz, ♥†Family of James Keidel, ♥Jasmin Whittaker, ♥Rene Mondol (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥John Mirra, Jr. (son-in-law of Rosario and Luis Hooker), ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Veronica Stone (friend of Margo Morrison), ♥Everon Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Eugene (Gene) O'Brien, ♥Hedy Kling, ♥Gene Marks, ♥Declan Jurgens, ♥Crystal Richardson, ♥Pat Hamilton, ♥Michelle Hooker-Mirra, ♥Karen Kiernan, ♥Carol Whyte, ♥Winston Scarlett (brother-in-law of Maudlyn Scarlett), ♥David Biegler, ♥Vivian (4 months old) Peeples and sister Emilia (4 years old) Peeples, ♥Mary Turbeville (cousin of Lenore Kurz), ♥Jennifer LaRochelle, ♥Michael Ciampi (friend of Kim Neri), ♥Michael Kurz, ♥Walter McKnight, ♥Vin Dowling, ♥Suella Fredrick (friend of Lorna McKenzie), ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Garvin Phillip (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Marilyn Eller (sister of Elaine Treske), ♥Irene Misiti (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Jim Poch, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Milly Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske). **Note.** Prayer List names will continue to be listed for two weeks. After that period of time, the names will be removed unless you call us with current information. † - Death in family, ♦ - New entry

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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