

# Grace United Methodist Church



**March 31, 2024**

**Order of Worship**

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

**6:30 AM**

**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** – Christ the Lord is Risen Today  
*C. Wesley, Arr. C. Curry*

**Welcome/Greetings**

**Easter Proclamation**

**L: CHRIST HAS RISEN!**

**P: He has risen indeed!**

**\*Opening Hymn #303** – “The Day of Resurrection”

*LANCASHIRE*

**Epistle - 2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: one died for the sake of all; therefore, all died. <sup>15</sup> He died for the sake of all so that those who are alive should live not for themselves but for the one who died for them and was raised. <sup>16</sup> So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. <sup>17</sup> So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! <sup>18</sup> All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. <sup>19</sup> In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, “Be reconciled to God!” <sup>21</sup> God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

**L** This is the gospel of our Risen Lord

**P** Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ

### **\*Gospel Reading – Mark 16:1-8**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. <sup>2</sup> Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" <sup>4</sup> When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) <sup>5</sup> Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. <sup>6</sup> But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup> Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

L This is the gospel of our Risen Lord

**P Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Hymn #364** – "Because He Lives"

*RESURRECTION*

**Sermon** – "Early in the Morning"

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker

### **Easter Morning Prayer**

**Lord, we have so much to be thankful for this Easter morning. In the chill of the morning air, we do feel the warm blessing of your Spirit. We can rejoice this day because our tendency toward disbelief is overcome by our capacity for faith. We are truly amazed that a cross of crucifixion has been transformed into a symbol of new life, a symbol of eternal life.**

**We are thankful that you come to greet us in a garden of hope, trust, and faith. We thank you that a dark and empty tomb has emerged into a garden of light and living. In all our days, we shall live for Christ, the resurrected and risen Savior. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Musical Selection**

He Touched Me

*W. J. Gaither*

*Lisa Richardson, Soloist*

**Closing Hymn #174** – "His Name Is Wonderful"

*HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL*

**Closing Voluntary** – Song Of Triumph

*D. Wion*

### **Benediction**