

Grace United Methodist Church



April 5, 2026 - 10:00AM

Order of Worship / Easter Sunday / Communion

**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 – "Maccabeus (Festival March)" by A. D. Miller

Welcome/Greetings

Choral Introit

***Opening Hymn #302 – "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (Verses 1-4)**

EASTER HYMN

***Call to Worship**

L: Christ is risen...

P: Christ is risen, indeed!

L: God is alive...

P: New birth is given!

L: Hope is alive...

P: A new age is dawning!

L: Joy is alive...

P: Redemption is here!

L: Love is alive

P: Death cannot harm us!

L: We are alive...

P: New life is within us!

L: The church is alive...

God's spirit is within us. Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Opening Prayer**

Holy and Living God, like a tomb's darkness that gives way to light, open us this day to newness of life; open us to your love, to your acceptance, to your forgiveness, to your peace; open us to one another, and to the possibilities you have in store for us. Give us hope for the future and a passion for life here and now. We pray in the name of the One who destroyed death, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Westminster Ringers – “Triumphal Entry” by Michael Bedford

Scriptures

New Testament – Romans 6:3-11 (New International Version)

³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

***Gospel Reading – Matthew 28:1-10 (New International Version)**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” ⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

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

***Hymn before Message #310 - “He Lives”**

ACKLEY

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Holy, Holy, Holy God, as we draw near to the mouth of the tomb and find the stone rolled away, as we bend with racing hearts to look inside, we are struck dumb. We have no words for the awe and majesty of your power. In silence, we bow before you, for we have fallen short of the glory for which you created us. (*Take a moment for silent confession*).

Words of Assurance

In the empty tomb, God declares that nothing can separate us from the love of God; nothing we have done or left undone; no one whom we have been or failed to be. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Passing of the Peace of Christ

As forgiven, freed, and risen people, testify to the joy of resurrection as you pass the peace of Christ. .

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

Bountiful God, we come with our offerings in response to your love. With the new life in Christ, we give ourselves in service to others. Receive the work we do and the gifts we bring that they may become a blessing in your sight.

Chancel Choir – "Resurrection Suite" arr. Mark Hayes

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

Mighty God of Resurrection, we offer our gifts alongside our alleluias! We offer our hands and feet and voices to take the celebration out of this place into a world that needs hope so desperately! May we go into the world with such joy that people see in us your redeeming love. In the name of the risen Christ we pray, Amen.

Thanksgiving and Communion

Easter people, come now to the table with Christ!

For he is risen! He lives, and he presides at this feast!

Come, eat together the bread of life!

For he is risen, and nothing separates us from God's love!

Come, drink together from the cup of gladness!

For Christ is risen—He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to you, God of glory! You created the universe and all living things. You breathed life into our dust and gave us paradise. You sought us when we hid ourselves, ashamed of our sin. You made a people for yourself and saved them from oppression.

In the fullness of time, your love came also to us in your servant Jesus. He ministered to us, healing, overcoming divisions, welcoming all. He died on the cross of shame. But you vindicated him, giving him a life that is forever new! This is the life he shares with us: a life of justice, mercy, and citizenship in your realm of peace.

All your creatures testify to your mighty deeds! They declare your everlasting love! We too proclaim it, as with the angels of heaven we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Now, O God, with grateful hearts we remember Jesus. We remember that he was laid in a borrowed grave. We remember that the women came, early in the morning, on the third day. They did not find him among the dead. We remember that after His resurrection, His disciples met him on the road to Emmaus. He opened the Scriptures, explaining everything, and their hearts burned within them. They said to him, "Stay with us, for it is evening." So he went in with them.

And while they were at table, he took bread, gave thanks, and broke it for them to share. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew him in the breaking of the bread. Come, Holy Spirit, bless this bread that earth has given and human hands have made.

Bless also this fruit of the vine, created for our gladness. Make them the food and drink of everlasting life, body surrendered, blood poured out. As we rejoice in the

resurrection, give us love for each other, and make us servants of peace, until your new realm is revealed and every creature beholds it. We pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and presides at this table, our host and our feast. Thanks be to him, who taught us to pray....

The Lord's Prayer and Choral Response

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

***Prayer After Receiving Communion**

Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion— oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #364 – “Because He Lives”**

RESURRECTION

Dismissal with Blessing

Closing Voluntary – "Hallelujah Chorus from 'The Messiah, HWV 56'" by G. F. Handel

~~"The congregation is invited to sing along"~~

Pastor: Rev. Eumin Kim	Counting Team: Debbie Nicosia
Liturgist/Reader: Dr. Tonia Ukanwoke	Ushers: Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano
Music Director: Drew Banzhoff	Audio-Tech: Brandon Gauntlett
Director of Westminster Ringers: Kim Neri	



♥John Reirdon (friend of Bob DiSalvo), ♥Barbara Melzer, †Family of Pastor John Cole, ♥Carmela Stockmann (mom of Donna Hartmann), ♥†Family and Friends of Evelyn Neber, ♥†Family of Barbara Harper, ♥Naomi Brown, ♥Anthony Nicosia (stepson of Debbie Nicosia), ♥Lisa Becker, ♥Bill Smyth, ♥Steve Savarese, ♥Chris Ukanwoke, ♥Rhoda Lankins and Roosevelt Lankins, ♥Country and People of Nigeria, ♥Juana Fernandez (mother of Marisa Pershad), ♥Barbara Woodford, ♥Pat Panzarino, ♥Sonia Elliott, ♥Amanda Brown (Naomi Brown's mother), ♥Diane Rutledge (Naomi Brown's aunt), ♥George and Jeanne Simmons, ♥Maudlyn Scarlett, ♥Marianne and Don Pike, ♥Jerry Noble (Tom Noble's dad), ♥Lionel Brown, ♥Diane Vitacco, ♥Heather Manning (friend of Kim Neri), ♥SofiaRose Curry (relative of Sing Larson), ♥Edie Zipperlen, ♥Mary Flynn (mom) and Maureen Andersen (daughter), ♥Manny Kurz, ♥Debbielee Thomsen, ♥Everon Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Carol Whyte, ♥Winston Scarlett (brother-in-law of Maudlyn Scarlett), ♥Jennifer LaRochelle (friend of Kim Neri), ♥David Biegler, ♥Vin Dowling, ♥Garvin Phillip (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Marilyn Eller (sister of Elaine Treske), ♥Jim Poch, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske).

† - Death in family, ♦ - New entry

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Prumeh Lee Kim