

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday March 31st

Easter: Sanctified Art, Wandering Heart

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME UMH 302 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
vs. 1-4

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Yesterday we thought death had won.

Yesterday we thought all was lost.

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen today.

CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)

In the Gospel of Luke, the women come to the tomb, and to their surprise, instead of finding Jesus,

they find angels. The angels tell the women, “Jesus is not here,” and when that answer is met with

confusion, the angels say, “Remember what he told you.” Remember.

It’s one of the words Jesus used

at his last supper, and it's one of the first words we hear at the empty tomb. Remember.

I think this call to remember is why we need the prayer of confession and these words of forgiveness every single week. It's not enough to hear of God's grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week. We need to be reminded that God's grace and mercy will never run out.

So friends, let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb.

Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of

grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can remember.

Join me in the prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

The stone is rolled away!

We assume it is a mistake.

The angels say, "He is not here!"

We assume their news is fake.

The women tell the story,

but we do not want to hear it.

Peter runs to the tomb,

but we do not understand.

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb is nothing more than a prank.

Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death.

Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world.

Teach us to see what you see.

Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Liturgist)

The angels tell the women, "Remember what Jesus told you."

So, church, remember this:

You are seen.

You are forgiven.

You are held in God's grace.

All of this is true.

Grace and mercy abound for you.

Remember this.

Amen!

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Hallelu, Hallelujah

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Pastor Andrew

ANTHEM: On Earth Has Dawned This Day of Days, arr. by Hal Hopson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (pastor)

God of new beginnings,

On that first Easter morning, the disciples struggled to hear the good news.

Doubt clouded their minds.

Negativity took root and hope vanished with a simple shake of their heads.

As we return to this familiar text, help us to hear differently this morning.

Open our ears that we might hear
the sound of Alleluias ringing through this text.

Open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter
might feel within reach.

Open up our hearts that we might believe
the unbelievable.

And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you.
God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news.
Speak to us now.
With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray, amen.

***LESSON 1: Luke 24:1-8 (liturgist)**

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. ⁵ The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

May God add a blessing to this reading.

***LESSON 2 Luke 24:9-12**

When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. ¹¹ Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. ¹² But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

This is the Word of God for all people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE And I Hope

*SPECIAL MUSIC

TIME OF PRAYER

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

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.

*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

**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 now and forever. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (cont.)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We may weep through the longest nights.

We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.

We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.

But today, we are a people of hope.

We believe in new beginnings.

We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.

**We believe that Jesus abides among us,
healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.**

We believe that a tomb could not hold him.

We believe that the sun does rise.

**We believe that Peter was there
with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.**

**We believe that the story is not over yet,
for God is among us.**

Today we are a people of hope.

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING HYMN

Up From the Grave he Arose

POSTLUDE