

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday April 20th

Easter Sunday

Sanctified Art: Everything In-Between

Theme: Grief and Hope

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME Christ the Lord Is Risen Today UMH 302

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: My dear friends,

we have known grief.

We have known loss.

We have known the long road, tired and winding.

We have whispered prayers on bended knees.

We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

L: But today—

P: today we know hope.

L: Today we know life.

P: Today we know the sound of Alleluias.

L: Today we know that death does not have the last word.

P: Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

L: It is Easter.

May hope find you.

And may you know, deep in your bones,
that today is a new day.

P: Alleluia! Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (liturgist)

L: God meets us in the night—

P: before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure.

L: God meets us in the light—

P: where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, where people gather around tables.

L: God meets us in between—

P: at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.

L: And if God meets us in all those places, then surely God meets us everywhere—

P: at the water's edge, at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call.

L: We are not alone. God is all around.

P: Let us worship the God of everything.

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Jesus Loves Me
CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM

TIME OF PRAYER

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

PRAYER HYMN He Lives UMH 310

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (liturgist)

God of Alleluias and empty tombs,

God of garden plots and good news,

it is Easter.

It is finally Easter.

In a world full of grief and heartache,

in a world full of violence and oppression,

in a world full of loss and separation,

we long for this day

because Easter sings a different song.

Easter sings a song of hope.

Easter sings a song of new life.

Easter sings a song of love that makes you want to jump out of your
chair

and run barefoot to the tomb.

Easter smells of fresh flowers and baked bread.

It sounds like trumpets and laughter.

It feels like a crowded table and a warm hug.

Yes, Easter sings a different song.

So in a world full of grief,

help us to cling to Easter's hope.

In a world full of grief,

help us hear this story of good news.

In a world full of grief,

we're ready to jump out of our chairs

and run barefoot to the tomb.

With hope we pray,

with hope we listen,

amen.

*LESSON

Luke 24:1-12 CEB

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. 9 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

Grief and Hope

*HYMN

Up from the Grave He Arose UMH 322

CALL TO CONFESSION

Faithful friends, today is a joyful day!

If I were to ask you what parts of today's service feel joyful, you'd probably say the music, the

passing of the peace, the flowers in the sanctuary. You might say the children's sermon, or the crowded room. But it's unlikely that any of you would name the prayer of confession, because the prayer of confession has a reputation for being somber and serious. But perhaps the prayer of confession can feel like a fresh page. Maybe the prayer of confession can allow us to start again. When we move closer to God, we are always met with grace, mercy, and abundant love. And my friends, that is joyful. That feels like Easter, doesn't it? So join me in the prayer of confession. It's a joyful day. That joy doesn't stop here. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

L: The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles [of the resurrection]. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."

**P: Forgive us, God,
when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it.
Forgive us, God,
when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for
hope.
Forgive us, God,
when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices
of our neighbors.**

L: In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.

**P: Show us how to hold onto hope.
Show us how to run toward you. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

L: Family of Faith,

At first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

P: God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving, when we're shouting and when we're silent, when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear.

God's grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days, and every day in between. Thanks be to God for this good news! Alleluia! Amen.

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

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

L: In the dark before dawn,

P: we believe that God is alive.

L: In the midst of our grief,

P: we believe the Spirit is at work.

L: In the chaos of our broken world,

P: we believe that love is on the loose.

L: For no stone could keep God at bay,

P: and no violence could keep God's love from us.

L: So today we sing,

P: Alleluia!

L: For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,

P: hope lives.

L: Christ has died,

P: and Christ has also risen.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*BENEDICTION Easter People, Raise Your Voices UMH 304

POSTLUDE