

Easter Sunday

Make Your Way

April 5, 2026

First
Church

Celebrate Service - April 5, 2026

WE GATHER

Prelude

"Easter Song"
Chancel Choir

Welcome & Lighting of Candles

Rev. Duane Carlisle

Centering Words

L: Though the way has been long and the road rough,

P: Yet will we trust the One who leads us.

L: Though the direction is unknown and the journey continues,

P: Yet will we place our lives in Christ's loving care.

L: Christ is Risen!

P: He is risen indeed! Come, let us worship!

Opening Hymn

Easter Introit (Choir & Instruments)
"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" Vs. 1-4

Opening Prayer

Good and Gracious God, We gather today as a people on a journey. For forty days, we have walked the wilderness of Lent, and we have stood in the long shadows of the cross. But today, the road has turned. The tomb is empty, and a new path is open before us. We celebrate the victory of Jesus, who traveled the furthest distance—from death to life—to show us the way to You.

Lord, as we begin this service, be our companion on the road. Just as You walked with the disciples on the way to Emmaus, open our eyes to recognize Your presence among us.

May the joy of this resurrection morning fuel us for the journey ahead, reminding us that with You, we never walk alone. Guide our feet into the way of peace, and let our lives reflect the light of this new beginning. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

WE PROCLAIM

The Message to Young Disciples

Talitha Huber

The New Testament Lesson

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

L: The Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us.

P: Thanks be to God.

The Message

Rev. Duane Carlisle

The Message in Music

"Song for Walking"

By Tophouse

First Up Band

WE RESPOND

The Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Duane Carlisle

Invitation to Generosity

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Great Thanksgiving

L: Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed!

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love, you are beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love, you are creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe.

You are the One who meets us on the road, who walks beside us whether we wander or walk with intention, who is present in every step of The Way .

Nothing exists that does not find its source in you. Through fear-filled days and aching nights, when the powers of death have done their worst, your love has never deserted us.

When we have lost our way, you have found us. When we have wandered far, you wait, ready to run toward us. When we have reached the end of ourselves, you have shown us the way home.

Even when we turn away from you, you are with us; your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, risen to life, eternal as your love—the One who is The Way , who walked the road of suffering and love, who met us at tables, on hillsides, in wilderness places, and who now leads us from death into life.

With the women at the tomb, we raise the strain of gladness. Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!

The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom, revealing that no road is too long, no wandering too far, no ending too final for your grace to reach.

And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place, with pilgrims and saints, with the great cloud of witnesses who have walked this way before us, and with angels and archangels, to proclaim the glory of your name:

P: 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.

L: It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ, who gathers us along the journey of the pilgrim's path and calls us into community—friends, family—a people who began as uncertain travelers but now have been found and are welcomed home. Christ Jesus, you meet us at the table, again and again, reminding us that we belong.

In this meal we remember you, your promises, and the price you paid --for who you were, what you said, and what you did—walking the way of love all the way to the cross, and beyond it.

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, “Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me.” After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying, “This is the new covenant, remember me.”

We do remember.

We remember your life of love, your companionship on the road, your welcome at the table, your dying, and your rising to life again. We remember that even in death, you were making a way— a way through the grave, a way into new life, a way that leads us home. In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

L: Holy Mystery, God the Spirit, we call on you to transform these familiar things, as you continually transform the world around us. Walk with us still, as you did on every step of this Lenten journey.

Bless this bread and this cup— the wheat and the grape, the farmer and the harvest, the seed and the sower— and all who have walked the long road to this table, so that in the sharing of these simple elements --in community-- we may taste and see your goodness, and be strengthened for the journey ahead.

Make of us companions on the way— people of welcome, people of grace, people who know that no one walks alone. Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

Amen.

Communion

"Crowded Table"

WE GO FORTH

Closing Hymn

"Easter People Raise Your Voices"

The Benediction

Rev. Duane Carlisle

L: The Creator God filled you with breath, inviting you to this journey called Life.

P: We will follow on The Way.

L: Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means to make a new way with Love.

P: We will follow on The Way.

L: The Spirit gives us strength to move forward with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.

P: We will follow on The Way.

L: May this week be filled with opportunities to choose a path that leads to more life for all people and to keep moving toward horizons of love. May it be so. Amen.

“Buen Camino!”

The Postlude

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Arr. Joel Raney

Scott Hines & Charis Vander Plaats Duet

Scott Hines & Charis Vander Plaats

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Arr. Joel Raney

Piano & Organ Duet

Scott Hines & Charis Vander Plaats

Prayers

Active Military

As we update our list of active military personnel, we invite First Church families to share the names of any immediate family members currently serving. Please contact Ronda at rkroeschen@fumcwl.org and include each military member's name and rank.

Worship Team

Audio/Visual	Band	Liturgists	Musicians	Pastors	Worship Leaders
Livestream: Riley Schellinger	Acoustic Guitar: Kory Pritchett	Liturgist: Jo Moffat	Piano: Scott Hines	Lead Pastor: Duane Carlisle	Bell Choir Director: Kathy Lind
Slides: Tom Dienhart	Banjo: Doug Coolman		Trombone: Michael Budd Brenden Boyer	Assistant Pastor: Kory Pritchett	Director of Music and Arts: Charis Vander Plaats
Soundboard: Evora Schellinger Dustin Coolman	Bass Guitar: TJ Delgado		Trumpet: Jordan Hanthorn Josiah Budd Nate Martin		First Up Band Director: Kory Pritchett
	Drums: Cade Quinn				
	Electric Guitar: Nick Clinkenbeard				
	Keys: Ryan Madden				
	Organ: Charis Vander Plaats				
	Vocal: Amanda Hedden Karen Hull				

Quick Links



[Giving](#)

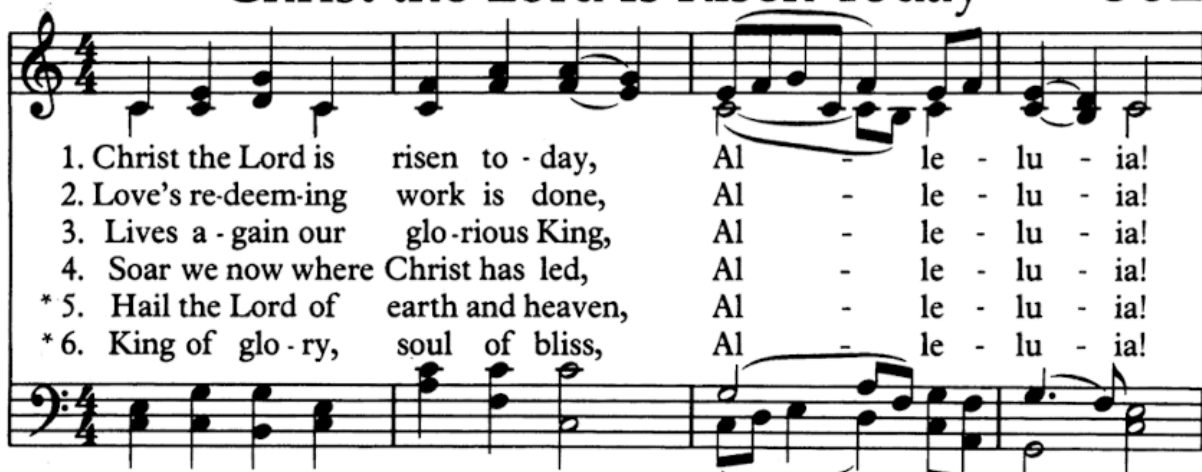


[Bulletin](#)

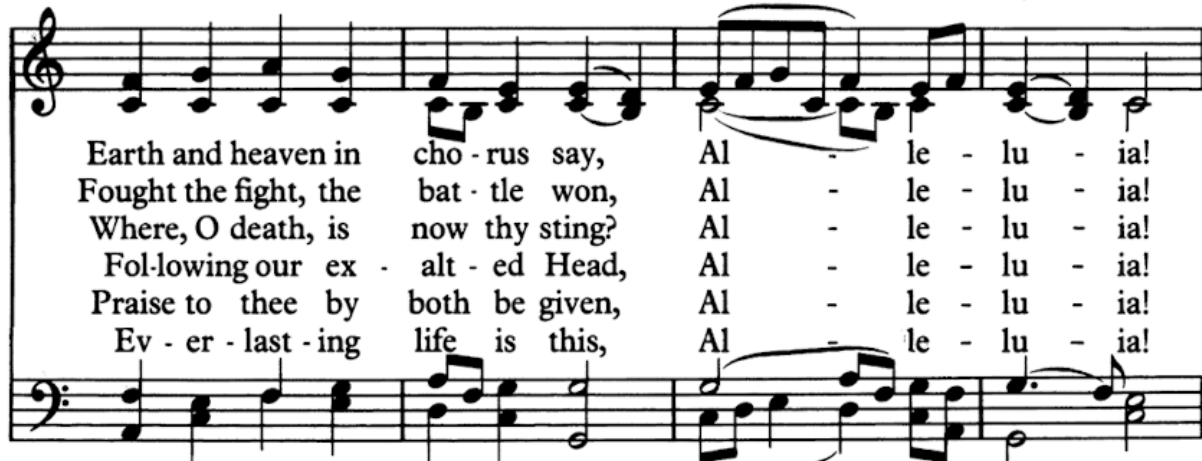


[Check In](#)

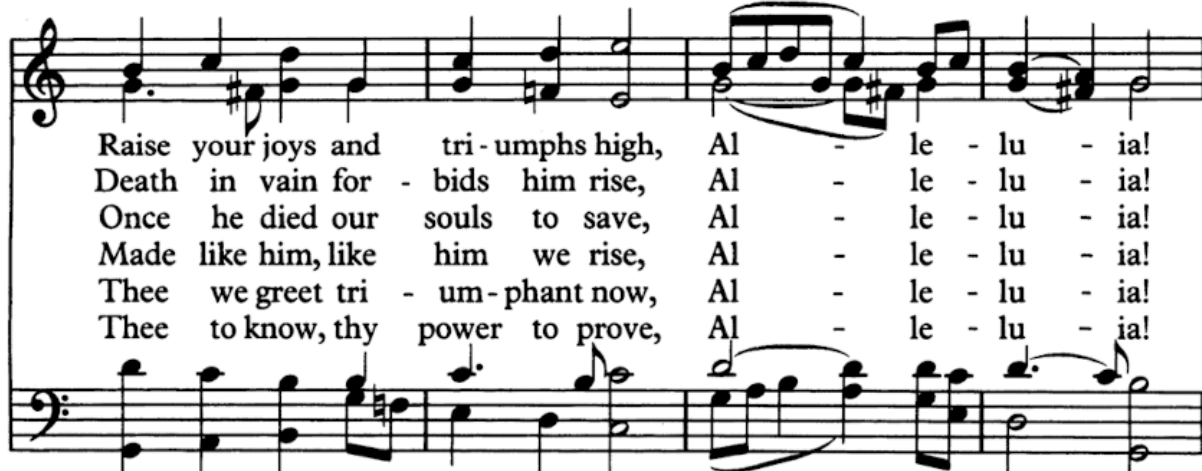
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 302



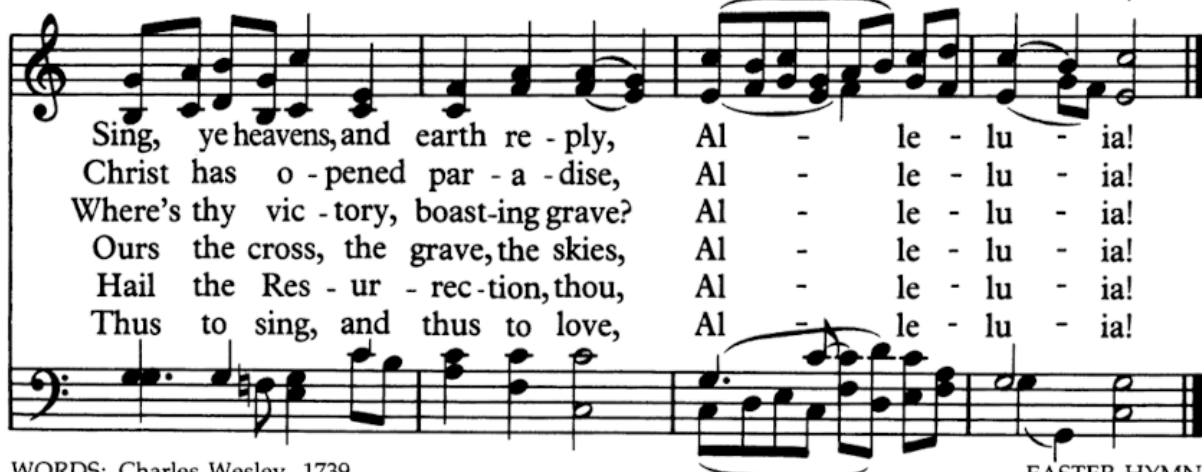
1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!
 * 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Al - le - lu - ia!
 * 6. King of glo - ry, soul of bliss, Al - le - lu - ia!



Earth and heaven in cho - rus say, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to thee by both be given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - er - last - ing life is this, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thee we greet tri - um - phant now, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thee to know, thy power to prove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where's thy vic - tory, boast - ing grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hail the Res - ur - rec - tion, thou, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thus to sing, and thus to love, Al - le - lu - ia!

Easter People, Raise Your Voices 304

1. Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, sounds of heaven in
 2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our press - ing
 3. Ev - ery day to us is Eas - ter, with its res - ur -

earth should ring. Christ has brought us heav - en's choic - es;
 here be - low. For our Lord em - pow - ered us to
 rec - tion song. When in trou - ble move the fast - er

heaven - ly mu - sic, let it ring. Al - le - lu - ia!
 tri - umph o - ver ev - ery foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 to our God who rights the wrong. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.
 Al - le - lu - ia! On to vic - tory now we go.
 Al - le - lu - ia! See the power of heaven - ly throngs.