



**Mt Jackson United Methodist Church  
& Drive-In Worship  
April 18, 2021 -- 11am**

The Third Sunday of Easter

THE PRELUDE

THE GREETING

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAYER CONCERNS

THE HYMN – “Easter People Raise Your Voices” *(You may hum instead of sing)*

1 Easter people, raise your voices,  
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven’s choices;  
heavenly music, let it ring:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"  
Easter people, let us sing.

2 Fear of death can no more stop us  
from our pressing here below.  
For our Risen Lord empowers us  
to triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
On to victory now we go.

3 Every day to us is Easter,  
with its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster  
To our God who rights the wrong  
Alleluia! Alleluia  
See the power of heavenly throngs!

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The Good News is proclaimed to the world!

**We are witnesses of these things.**

Hope is Alive, in the acts of kindness we share with one another;

**We are witnesses of these things.**

Joy is palpable, in the celebration of the Risen Christ!

**We are witnesses of these things.**

Your sins are forgiven, and you have new life, now and always—

**We are witnesses of these things.**

THE OPENING PRAYER

God of Holy Wisdom, guide us in this season of Easter to proclaim Your Good News in all we do, as well as what we say. Lead us in the ways of Your loving-kindness. Remind us to ponder the scriptures and reflect on Your teaching. Open our hearts to receive what You have to share with us. Show us how to live into Your ways of justice and mercy. May Your wisdom be apparent in our lives, living into the Gospel as a way of life, rather than simply what we preach. Spirit of Wisdom, remain in us, now and always. Amen.

THE HYMN -- “Amazing Grace” *(You may hum instead of sing)*

1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

5 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease:  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
a life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining like the sun,  
we've no less days to sign God's praise,  
Than when we first begun.

THE SCRIPTURE -- Acts 3:12-19

<sup>12</sup> When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant<sup>[L]</sup> Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup> "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup> In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah<sup>[E]</sup> would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

THE PSALTER -- Psalm 4

<sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup> **How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?**

<sup>3</sup> But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.

<sup>4</sup> **When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.**

<sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> **There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"**

<sup>7</sup> You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

<sup>8</sup> **I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.**

THE OPENING REFLECTION

THE SPECIAL MUSIC -- "He's Alive" Dolly Parton

1 The gates and doors were barred  
And all the windows fastened down  
I spent the night in sleeplessness  
And rose at every sound  
Half in hope of sorrow  
And half in fear the day  
Would find the soldiers breakin' through  
To drag us all away

2 And just before the sunrise  
I heard something at the wall  
The gate began to rattle  
And a voice began to call  
I hurried to the window  
Looked down into the street  
Expecting swords and torches  
And the sound of soldiers' feet

3 But there was no one there but Mary  
So I went down to let her in  
John stood there beside me  
As she told me where she'd been  
She said they've moved Him in the night  
And none of us know where  
The stone's been rolled away  
And now His body isn't there

4 We both ran towards the garden  
Then John ran on ahead  
We found the stone and empty tomb  
Just the way that Mary said  
But the winding sheet they wrapped Him in  
Was just an empty shell  
And how or where they'd taken Him  
Was more than I could tell

5 Oh something strange had happened there  
Just what I did not know  
John believed a miracle  
But I just turned to go  
Circumstance and speculation  
Couldn't lift me very high  
'Cause I'd seen them crucify Him  
Then I saw Him die

6 Back inside the house again  
The guilt and anguish came  
Everything I'd promised Him  
Just added to my shame  
When at last it came to choices  
I denied I knew His name  
And even if He was alive  
It wouldn't be the same

7 But suddenly the air was filled  
With a strange and sweet perfume  
Light that came from everywhere  
Drove shadows from the room  
And Jesus stood before me  
With His arms held open wide  
And I fell down on my knees  
And I just clung to Him and cried

8 Then He raised me to my feet  
And as I looked into His eyes  
The love was shining out from Him  
Like sunlight from the skies  
Guilt in my confusion  
Disappeared in sweet release  
And every fear I ever had  
Just melted into peace

He's alive yes He's alive; Yes He's alive and I'm forgiven; Heaven's gates are open wide  
He's alive yes He's alive; Oh He's alive and I'm forgiven; Heaven's gates are open wide

He's alive He's alive; Hallelujah He's alive  
He's alive and I'm forgiven; Heaven's gates are open wide;  
He's alive He's alive He's alive; I believe it He's alive; Sweet Jesus

THE SCRIPTURE -- Luke 24:36b-48

<sup>36b</sup> Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

THE RESPONSE

This is the word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

THE SERMON

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORDS PRAYER

THE OFFERING PRAYER

**Mighty God who brings life and hope out of death and despair, help us hear the invitation Christ offered to the disciples, "Touch me and see!" Make us bold to grab hold of the risen Christ – not for this day but for all our days. May we offer our gifts this morning to a church that is still being born, that Christ will bring into the future. May our eyes and ears and hearts continue to hold on to him as we help Christ lead his church forward! In his name, we pray. Amen.**

THE DOXOLOGY

THE HYMN -- "Christ for the World We Sing" (*You may hum instead of sing*)

1 Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with loving zeal; the poor and them that mourn, the faint and overborne, sin-sick and sorrow-worn, whom Christ doth heal.	2 Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with fervent prayer; the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed, redeemed at countless cost, from dark despair.
3 Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with one accord; with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare, with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.	4 Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with joyful song; the newborn souls, whose days, reclaimed from error's ways, inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

THE BENEDICTION

O Lord, as you have made disciples of us,

**now you send us into the world to make disciples of others.**

Go with us and be our guide,

**that the witness of our lives may confirm the testimony of our lips.**

THE POSTLUDE

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**Church attendance Procedure:**

We no longer have to register in advance for our worship service. The Virginia Conference is now permitting us to do "**Entryway Health Acknowledgement**". It will be a similar procedure as to when we enter a doctor's office. You

will be asked to answer some questions, wear a mask and follow all the safe distancing rules. We will keep a record of all who attended our services.

**Please remember-**

- You must wear either a paper or cloth mask that covers you nose and mouth.
- If you are sick, please stay at home
- An offering container will be available on the way out the door.
- Volunteers will assist you in the parking lot and into your seats in the church.
- No singing – but you may hum to the music
- You may bring your own Bibles. All hymnals and Bibles have been taken out the pews.

Drive in Worship – at 11am in the Mt Jackson Parking Lot

- Everyone must stay in their cars

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Food Pantry** – the April item is peanut butter. You may place your items in the grocery cart at the front of the sanctuary. If you prefer, you may make a monetary donation.

**UMW** – will meet at 7pm on April 21 in the social hall.

**PPRC** – will meet at 7pm on May 3 at Mount Jackson.

**Prayer Concerns:**

Josephine Sammons, Dianna Perry, Jeannie Koontz, Cyndy Frye, Gary Driver, Freddie Forster, Laura Anderson, Sharon and Terry Turner, Sarah Rowling, Jeff Roberts, David Carte, Robert Sammons

If you have any prayer concerns that you would like for Pastor Elfie to share at worship, you can: Email her at [elfinmc@gmail.com](mailto:elfinmc@gmail.com) or Call/text her at 540-604-4579