



Valley United Methodist Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 4, 2021—9:00 a.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

Gathering Music

As It Began to Dawn
Prelude on "Easter Hymn"

Smith
Broughton

*Hymn of Praise

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (UMH 302), stanzas 1-4

1-Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2-Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

3-Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

4-Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

*Greeting Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed!
Glory and honor, justice and righteousness,
be to God for ever and ever.
Today is the day of celebration and promise.
Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen! Alleluia!

*Opening Prayer **Holy One, you come to us with power beyond all knowing.**
You lift all things out of the dust,
you breathe life into every cell,
you call us into communion with you,
and you claim victory over death.
Blessed be your holy name now and forever. Amen.

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, vol. 1 (2014), 147

*Peace The peace of Christ is with you.
And also with you.

Time with Children

Response *Alleluia (FWS 2043)*

First Reading 1 Corinthians 15.1-11

15 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news¹ that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters¹ at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

A Contemporary Word

“Easter Morning” by Ann Weems

The stirring wildness of God
calls brittle bones to leaping
and stone hearts to soaring.
Old women dance among the stars.

from *Kneeling in Jerusalem* (1992), 93

Gospel Reading Matthew 28.1-10

28 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Message The Healing Truth of Resurrection

Call to Prayer *Holy Vessels*

Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come.

Time of Prayer

Holy Communion

Invitation / Preparation / Offering

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so,

with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

...as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,

now and for ever.

Amen.

The 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

Grant that we may go into the world

in the strength of your Spirit,

to give ourselves for others,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Closing Song

Christ Is Risen (UMH 307)

1-Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

2-Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

3-Christ is risen! Earth and heaven never more shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

Benediction

Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus, from "Messiah"

Handel

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*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar: Week of April 4-April 11

Please contact the church office for Zoom links for events happening online.

TODAY, Sunday, April 4	6:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service (Praise Garden Fire Pit)
	9:00 a.m.	Easter Worship
		Fellowship Time-Zoom
		Youth Sunday School (Adults will not meet today)
Monday, April 5	7:00 p.m.	Doing Theology-Zoom
Tuesday, April 6	6:30 p.m.	COG Meeting-Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, April 7	4:00 p.m.	Prayer Group-Zoom
Thursday, April 8	2:00 p.m.	Antiracism Group
Sunday, April 11	9:00 a.m.	Worship-Holy Humor Sunday

Doing Theology: You're invited to join us on Monday evenings, from 7-8 p.m., as we examine the events of our world through the lens of our shared Christian faith. Some of the many topics we've discussed so far have included Amanda Gorman, Barry C. Black, the Texas "Freeze," and Dr. Suess. If you'd like to join in our virtual conversation, held via Zoom, please feel free to contact Daniel Schott by email at djschott42@gmail.com.

Sunday, 4/11, 9:00 AM Hats! And Jokes! Holy Humor Sunday

On livestream and in person. We'll celebrate that God has the last laugh in the wonder of resurrection and defeat of death! Wear your Easter bonnet—or any hat you might have sitting around, or that you might beg, borrow or craft—as we'll be tipping our hats to God *winning!* Come with a joke to share (or video yourself telling it, and send it to Pastor Lee). Laughter is non-negotiable. A day of Easter joy!

Spring Clean Up Day: Saturday, April 24 at 10:00 a.m. Bring your lawn tools and pitch in to help with clean up of the church yard. If you can't make it on the 24th, feel free to come up anytime to work on your own with raking, picking up trash, sticks, etc. Contact the church office or Marty Jones if you have questions.