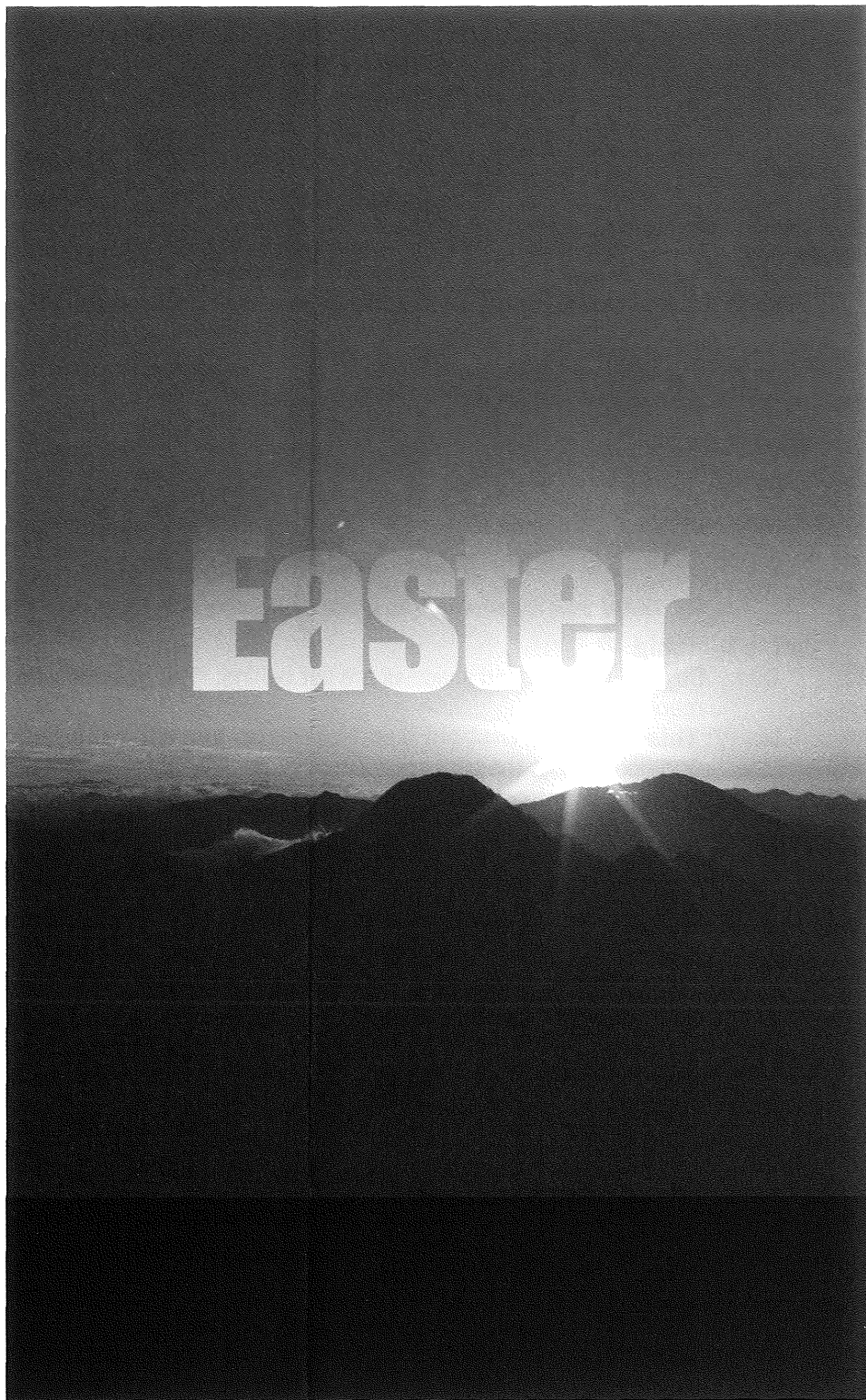


EASTER





IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST  
1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371  
[www.icucc.org](http://www.icucc.org) • 248-628-1610  
April 12, 2020 • 11:00 a.m.



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**Welcome to worship at Immanuel United Church of Christ!**  
**God is Still Speaking,**

**Thank You for taking the time to turn off your cell phone during the worship service.**

Prelude

**\*Bringing in the Light of Christ**

(\* denotes those who are able may stand.)

Ring of the Bell

Welcome

Pastor Liz Wilson

Children's Message "Easter"

Pastor Liz Wilson

**All Children depart for Sunday School**

***Thank you for signing the black Friendship Pad located in your pew***

**\*Call to Worship**

, Liturgist

One: Day has dawned and shadows are left behind. The stone is rolled away and hope is reborn.

**Many: This is the day that our God has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: God opens to us the gates of righteousness. We enter to give thanks to our God.

**Many: We give thanks, for our God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Set your mind on things that are above. Look up and welcome Christ's appearing.

**Many: We have been raised with Christ. Glory is being revealed to us on this holy day.**

Invocation

Pastor Liz Wilson

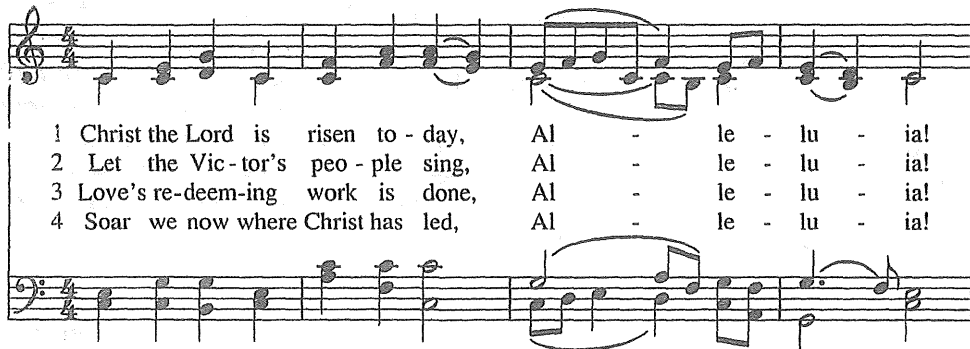
God of amazing surprises, the story of Easter is ever new. Suddenly we are aware of your presence with us. We had lost touch with you. Our minds were full of worries and distractions, set on things of this earth. Our spirits felt the grip of death. Jesus seemed a legend from the past, not a real person who shared our common lot. But today, you awaken something new within us. We hear the cry, Christ is risen, and we want to respond. Dry our tears and call our name. We need the good news of Easter. Amen.

**\*Hymn: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"**

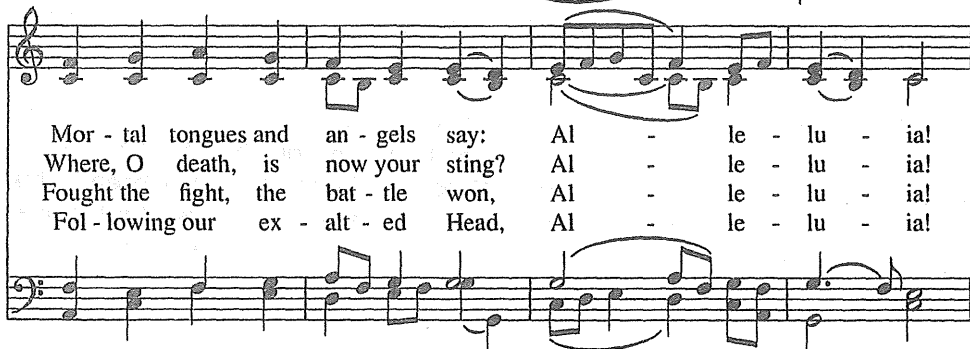
(Please remain standing for the Prayer of Confession)

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

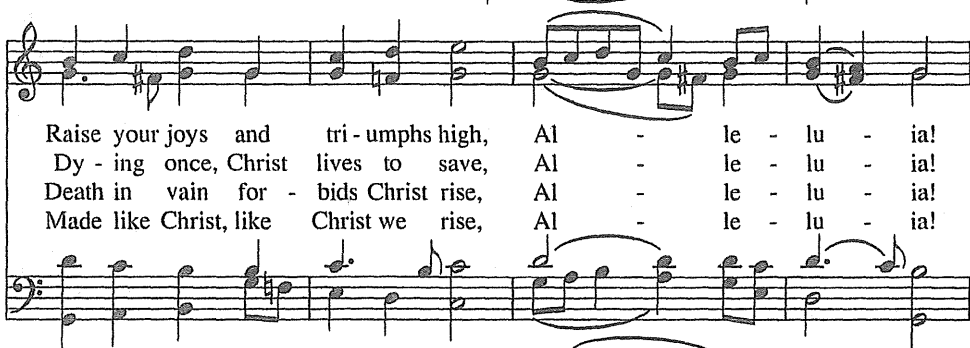
Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.



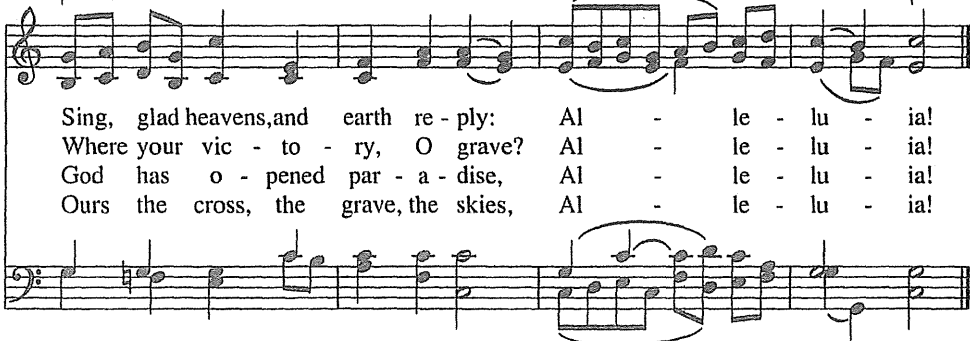
1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!



Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of *Lyra Davidica* wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias  
 Arr. from *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**

Pastor Liz Wilson

**O God, the message of Easter has come again before we were ready to receive it. The Palm Sunday parade demanded very little of us. We could join in the hosannas. But the betrayal and denial, the suffering and shame, the agony and death, have left us fearful and shaken. We have become enemies of Jesus without intending to be disloyal. We have left him in the tomb, lest he upset our daily lives. The Jesus of long ago seems more comfortable to us than the Christ who is risen today in our midst. We confess our reluctance to let Christ claim us and change us. O God, we need forgiveness! Amen.**

**The Congregation Prays**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

, Liturgist

**Congregational Response: "Lord hear our prayers."** (Response after each Prayer request)

Silent Meditation

**The Lord's Prayer:** (use words most comfortable for you)

, Liturgist

**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, forever. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:**

, Liturgist

Acts 10:34-43

Pages 129 & 130 New Testament

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Pages 565 & 566 Old Testament

Colossians 3:1-4

Page 199 Old Testament

John 20:1-18

Page 114 & 115 New Testament

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pastor Liz Wilson

God of empty tombs and empty hearts, fill us today with the joy of trusting and believing, that we might rise from the graves of our misplaced loyalties to live with Christ and serve wherever good news is needed. May gladness flow through us to bring inspiration and hope to sister and brothers locked in prisons of despair, that all of us might have the courage to love as you have loved us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Sermon:**

"Easter"

Pastor Liz Wilson

**\*Hymn:**

"The Strife is O'er"

Page 4

**Stewardship Message**

**Announcements**

*(Be sure to read about up-coming events in the back of the bulletin.)*

**Offering:**

Offertory

**\*Doxology:** (The tune is found on page 356 of your red hymnal.)

**PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW...**

**PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW...**

**PRAISE GOD, ABOVE, YOU HEAVENLY HOST...**

**CREATOR, CHRIST AND HOLY GHOST...AMEN.**

1 Cor. 15:53-57

Latin, c. 1695

Transl. Francis Pott, 1861; alt.

Refrain (before st. 1 and after st. 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -  
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es  
 4 Christ, by your wounds on Cal - va - ry from death's dread

ry of life is won; The song of tri - umph  
 le - gions has dis - persed: Let shouts of ho - ly  
 glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry to our  
 sting your ser - vants free, That we may live e -

has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! to Refrain

A seventeenth-century Jesuit collection published in Cologne, Germany, is the earliest known source of this Latin hymn. The hymn is firmly associated with this musical setting from a magnificent by the Italian composer Palestrina.

Tune: VICTORY 8.8.8. with alleluias  
 Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina, 1591  
 Arr. William H. Monk, 1861

Handwritten signature or initials.

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

Pastor Liz Wilson

By your hand, O God, we have been blessed with life, with food, with refreshment, with hope. Day by day you are saving us, healing our brokenness, calling forth our gifts, granting us strength to serve with Christ as a part of your revelation to the world. Thank you, God, for times of resurrection. Thank you for this day of celebration. We dedicate ourselves anew with our offering. Amen.

**\*Hymn: "The Day of Resurrection"**

Page 1

\*The Light of Christ goes into the world

**\*Blessing:**

Pastor Liz Wilson

One: With hope reborn, we go out to proclaim good news. The brightness of this day is meant to be shared.

**Many: We have seen the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the one we have been seeking.**

One: Run to tell others that Christ is alive. Spread the message through the land.

**Many: Beyond the cross is a message of peace. Beyond death is the promise of new life.**

One: God is our strength and our might. God answers our prayers and equips us for living.

**Many: We have been raised with Christ to fuller life. May God's reign be evident in us!**

**\*Postlude**

*We scatter to serve*\*\*\*\*\*

**Join together for refreshments in Fellowship**

**Immanuel Open and Affirming Statement:**

We welcome and affirm all people in celebrating diversity. We welcome to our faith family people of every race, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability and those who have doubts or questions.

**In Worship and Service Today**

**Ministry Message:** Pastor Liz Wilson

**Liturgist:** Margi Sellers

**Choir Director:** Ken Martin

**Accompanist:** Ann McKinley

**Our Tech team:** Tammy & Ken Martin, Eric Schuette,  
Larry Douglas, and David Ollie-Ray

**Floral Arrangements:** A gift created by Amy Wilson

**Ministers:** All the Immanuel Church faith community

**Christian Ed Director:** Danielle Willcock

**Sunday School:** Amy Wilson

**Church Officers & Staff**

**Moderator:** Justin Willcock

**Vice Moderator:** Ken Martin

**Treasurer:** Art Nagasaki

**Council Secretary:** Janet Caporale

**Clerk:** Suzanne Spiker

**Church Secretary & Custodian:** Sue Molczyk

**Building and Grounds Chair:** Paul Good

**Maintenance:** Paul Good

**For Pastoral Needs call:** Pastor Elizabeth Wilson Cell 1-248-379-3521

Treasury notice will be eliminated for few weeks until there's something to report(\$). Please remember to send tithe even though we are all sitting at home. (Support your church!) Thank you to those who sent their envelopes! Please remember us as we go thru this difficult time. Call each other! Send notes! Send a prayer. Send jokes. Let's stay in close communication. And be Safe! Love you all! Pastor Liz

# The Day of Resurrection

245

John of Damascus, 8th century  
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.

Mark 16:1-6

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;  
 the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,  
 We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,  
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad-ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 for we, too, want to fol - low and raise the vic - tor strain.  
 for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

A Greek canon—an extended poem of eight or nine odes, each based on a scriptural canticle—was the source of this hymn.  
 John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a monastery.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.  
 Henry T. Smart, 1836

## E A S T E R   S U N D A Y

April 12, 2020

John 20:1-18

It's a day to tell stories – stories about miracles and about new life, stories worth retelling. It's a day to tell this story. Before dawn, Mary, a grieving friend of Jesus went to the place where they had laid his body. She did not find the body there. She called for the others. They came and also saw the empty tomb. Some of them went away, distressed, suspecting vandals, but Mary stayed behind. Then and there she encountered the living Christ.

There's a lot of miracle to uncover in this story. There's the miracle of a woman in grief going to a tomb, only to find it empty. The miracle of the strength she found to continue to search. The miracle of Jesus' appearance, so changed that he was, at first, unrecognizable. The miracle that it was her word (the word of a woman, whose testimony was not even at the time admissible in a court of law) that was heard and believed by the other disciples. The miracle that, in spite of all the ways throughout history in which women's voices have been silenced, that it was Mary's words that ring down through the years, "I have seen the Lord!"

But all those miracles can overshadow the very first miracle of the story, which is contained in one small phrase. It's so very small, in fact, that you might have missed it. "Early on the first day of the week and *while it was still dark*, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb..."

Did you catch it?

*While it was still dark.* Mary left her home before the sun was up. A dangerous time. A cold time. And in that cold, dangerous time, that time when there was only confusion, no hope at all, the resurrection of Jesus had already happened! A miracle.

It is a cold and dangerous time for many of us – in our own lives, in our communities, in our nation and in our world. And yet, while it is still dark, miracles are already beginning, already starting to stir, just about to burst from the tomb. So, do not be discouraged or afraid. Instead, get ready to join the shouts.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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## EASTER SERMON

APRIL 12, 2020

**Acts 10:34-43** Peter – God shows no partiality. Whoever believes in him and receives him is forgiven his sins. If you say you believe and keep on sinning, you are a liar.

**Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24** Give thanks~his steadfast love endures forever. "this is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Colossians 3:1-4** If you're raised with Christ, you are a new person. So stop your bad self.

**John 20:1-18** Mary Magdalene discover Jesus is not in the tomb. Peter , and "the other disciple (probably John) discover Jesus is not in the tomb. They run off but Mary stays. Jesus appear to her "Do not hold me (tell re mom), tell the others"

Easter is not about bunnies, chicks or children in their pretty spring clothes. There is nothing Christlike about dying eggs or eating hollow chocolate. The celebration we have for Easter has one reason: Except for Easter Sunday, Easter is too horrible to tell children. It is violent, hateful, dirty, sweaty, mournful and bloody, but dressed in pastels and flowers. How are we supposed to explain this to our children? "A fine, gentle human being was viciously murdered and that's how Christianity was born, dear." What do we do with this?

Here's what. His death and His resurrection are not the end of the story. The story doesn't end at all. It continues with you, with us, with all who love and with all who work for justice and mercy. As disciples of Christ we are taught to emulate his way in every situation and to plea forgiveness when we miss the mark. And forgiveness comes ~ from Christ who forgave all from the cross.

Go and love Easter. Embrace the love that didn't die or couldn't die now or ever. Amen.