



Mary Magdalene on Easter, Jesus MAFA

Easter Sunday
April 21, 2019 • 10:30 a.m.

Epworth United Methodist Church
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WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE.....Seth Engelby

WELCOME

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND LIFE

(Please use this time for preparing your mind, body and soul for worship)

CALL TO WORSHIP ~Rev. Nathan Decker

Morning has broken, but this morning is different.

The birds are singing tunes of joy in the trees surrounding the graves.

The flower buds are bursting in colors vibrant around each stone.

We've come to visit the grave of a friend, but "he is not here."

The Sun is rising in the East; the shadowed grays turn bright!

The Son is risen in our Hearts; darkness and death end in defeat.

Now we understand what Christ said, what God did.

Now we can proclaim,

CHRIST IS RISEN! HALLELUJAH!

*OPENING HYMN....."*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*"(vs 1,2,4)..... #302 UMH

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION ~*Worship@North*

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

RESPONSIVE READING..... **Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 29** (NRSV)

SCRIPTURE John 20:1-18 (NRSV)

CHORAL ANTHEM "*Easter Alleluia*"..... Don Besig

CHILDREN'S HYMN "*Christ Has Risen*"(vs 1).....#2115 FWS

CHILDREN'S TIME.....*Surprised by Jesus*

SERMON *Love, in a word*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE..... *"He Lives"* (1,3)..... #310 UMH

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER.....Safiyah Fosua

God of us all, we give you thanks for your love, your grace, and your power on the blessed Resurrection morning! We thank you for the many friends and loved ones who have made the extra effort to gather with us today. We thank you for the brilliance of the colors on us and around us that remind us of new life! Today, blessed God, we gather to remember and celebrate:

We remember Jesus, who healed the sick and raised the dead.

We remember Jesus, who gathered children to himself and dealt kindly with women centuries before efforts at women's liberation.

We remember Jesus, who always kept the mission in the forefront, and the minutia in the lowest seat.

We remember Jesus, Son of God, Song of God, who sang God's melody to us.

We remember Jesus, who consented to suffer and die at our hand.

Today, Almighty God, **we celebrate** the fact that death could not hold Jesus in the grave!

We celebrate that not even death is able to separate us from the love of God!

We celebrate the new life that we have in Christ!

We celebrate the assurance that we have of eternal life!

Today **we celebrate and give thanks** that in life, in death, in life after death we belong to God! **AMEN.**

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE *"Up from the Grave He Arose"* (vs 1,3)..... #322 UMH

OFFERING PRAYER

Mighty God of Resurrection Power: You offer us life that overcomes death, light that overcomes darkness, hope that overcomes our deepest despair! What could we possibly offer in return? our tithes and gifts, yes; but our minds, hearts, and bodies, as well. May our minds be about understanding who you are and who you long for us to be in this world. May our hearts overflow with your love and compassion for the poor, the oppressed, and the forgotten. may our bodies carry us out of the tombs of isolation to engage our neighbors as sisters and brothers. May the "Alleluias!" we offer leave this place with us to bring hope to everyone we meet! In the Risen Christ, we pray. AMEN.

WE TAKE GOD'S WORD WITH US INTO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN *"Thine Be the Glory"* (vs 1&3) #308 UMH

*BENEDICTION..... ~*Ministry Matters*

We have come from darkness and despair to hope and joy.

We have been transformed by new life.

Go forth to witness and to testify to the message of hope
we have received this day.

Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed! AMEN.

*POSTLUDE Seth Engelby