

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 4, 2021 Easter Sunday

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship:

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

God's steadfast love endures forever.

We rejoice in this day of salvation.

*This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice
and give thanks as we worship on this glorious day.*

God's steadfast love endures forever. Alleluia!

Opening Prayer Living God, as we rejoice on this Day of Resurrection, we have come to celebrate your love – a love that triumphs even over death. As we exult in the miracle of your incarnate love, we thank you for the opportunity to encounter the Risen Christ in our lives, confident that you are always with us in this world and in the world which is to come. Together in your Spirit, we worship you in the name of the Savior. Amen.

Scripture Reading “...God raised him on the third day.”
Read Acts 10.34-43

Prayer of Confession Holy Source of Life, you are the author of life, the power of our salvation. When our strength fails, carry us to the path of faithful living, we pray. When, with our sinful ways and closed hearts, we reject your salvation, set our minds on you, that we may return to your loving presence and guiding light. Raise us up to new life, we pray, that we may be children of the resurrection, your Easter people every day. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession Offer the confessions of your heart to God in these quiet moments.

Words of Assurance Hear the good news: everyone who believes in Christ receives forgiveness of sins through his name. In the name of the Risen Christ, we are forgiven and loved by the God of steadfast love. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading: “...he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures” Read I Corinthians 15.1-11

Remembering our Joys and Concerns in Prayer Please spend a few moments remembering those who are on our prayer list and the joys and concerns you bring to God today.

An Easter Sunday Prayer (from Sue White, Lay Leader)
Dear Lord, help us follow the example of the risen Christ, and shed our wounded selves. Help us move on to a new life surrounded by your unconditional and infinite love. May your peace drive away our fear and fill our tired hearts. We worship you on this Day of Resurrection as we share the prayer that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading “He has been raised; he is not here.”
Read Mark 16.1-8

Meditation “So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” Yes, this is the way that our reading from Mark's gospel ends for this week. Normally that wouldn't be a problem; we anticipate that the story would be continued in the next verses. However, for this week, there definitely is a problem - two of them, actually. The first is that there are no more verses; this is the ending of Mark's gospel (although additional verses were added in later years – and probably for this very reason). We receive no explanation as to what Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome do after running from the tomb in

fear. The second problem is that this is Easter! This is the highest, holiest day of the entire Christian year and we expect to hear that these women have shared what is THE good news, namely that Christ is risen, risen indeed! But that's not what happens.

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome had brought spices to the tomb of their beloved Jesus; they had watched in deep sadness as he was crucified just days earlier. As they went to the tomb they were concerned about rolling away the stone at its entrance but, to their great surprise, it had already been done. When they entered and found a man sitting there, the gospel tells us that they were alarmed but he reassured them, saying *"Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here."*

It's at this point that the women run away in fear. Can you blame them? It's a pretty amazing story. And, the women must have been thinking, if this is true, then so must be all the other things that Jesus told them: the poor would be blessed, those who mourn would be comforted, the kingdom of heaven would come near, and believers would be given life eternal. It was a lot to take in but, thankfully for us, the story truly didn't end with their fear. This miraculous story of their beloved Jesus being alive began to spread (other gospel accounts have the women sharing this good news) and the number of believers began to grow, reminding us that fear and death won't have the last word after all! Centuries later we're still rejoicing in this truly good news; we're still celebrating this holy day when, out of God's love for us, Jesus rose to share with us the grace and peace that he alone gives to those who believe. Thanks be to God!

Closing Prayer Almighty God, having celebrated the Risen Christ, we will continue to rejoice. Bless us and keep us, we pray, that we may feel your love along with the grace of the Risen Christ, and the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit always with us. May we lead lives of faith and hope in the power of Christ's resurrection. Alleluia! Amen!



Lisbon United Methodist Church
welcomes, nurtures, and serves
all people
with the love of Christ.