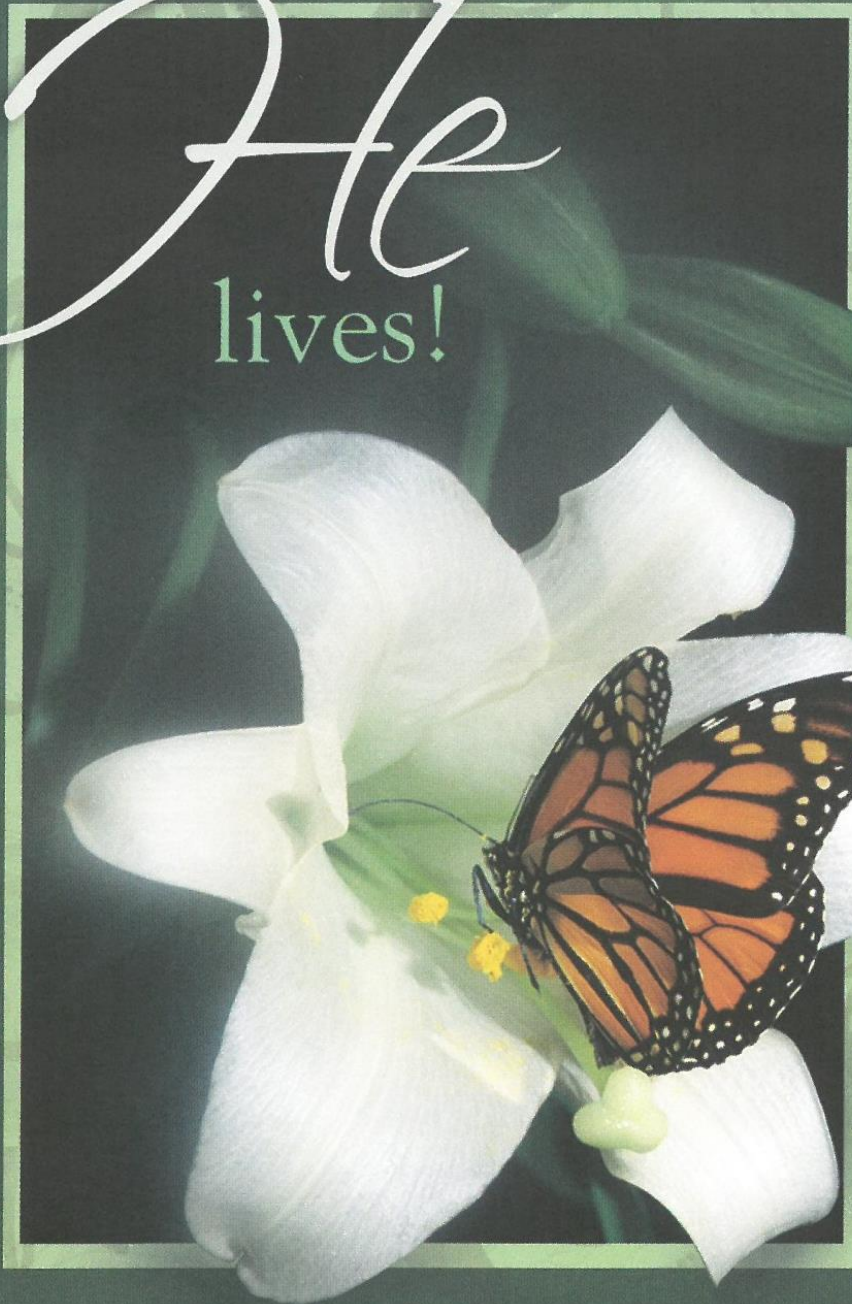


Contemporary
10:00 a.m. Full Text

He
lives!



Worship Celebration: April 4, 2021

EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church

10:00 a.m. (BLENDED WORSHIP)

Easter Sunday (Year B)

VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community.

MISSION: Inviting, Belonging, Connecting, Caring

✠ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ✠

Gathering Music

Doug Yetter, organ

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

*Gospel Lesson

John 20:1-18

Max Dick, lector

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.

He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (*which means Teacher*).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

***Song of Resurrection**

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY¹

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and haven 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!

Children's Celebration

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

COMING OUT OF ISOLATION²

Coming out of isolation, forth from darkness into light;
after months of separation, thrilled by each familiar sight:
Doors flung wide for friends to enter, pews awaiting human touch;
time to gather and re-center in this space we love so much.

May we no more take for granted all those things we feared we'd lost;
keep them in our hearts implanted with the zeal of Pentecost:
simple joys of sweet communion, of a handshake or embrace;
may this time of glad reunion bless us in this holy place.

Christ who calls us back together to the worship we hold dear,
You have granted grace to weather this unprecedented year.
With our prayers and with our singing let us fill Your house once more;
rafters with our praises ringing to the One whom we adore.

Keep us mindful of those others who no more will gather here;
may those sisters and dear brothers live in mem'ries rich and clear.
Though by COVID they've been taken, from our presence swept away,
leave our confidence unshaken that we'll meet again one day.

New Testament Lesson

I Corinthians 15:50-58

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Listen, I will tell you a mystery!

We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord,
because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

JESUS IS ALIVE ³

Hallelujah! Jesus is alive! Death has lost its vict'ry and the grave has been denied.

Jesus lives forever – He's alive, He's alive!

He's the Alpha and Omega, the first and last is He;

The curse of sin is broken and we have perfect liberty.

The Lamb of God has spoken – He's alive, He's alive!

Hallelujah! Jesus is alive! Death has lost its vict'ry and the grave has been denied.

Jesus lives forever – He's alive, He's alive!

He's the Alpha and Omega, the first and last is He;

The curse of sin is broken and we have perfect liberty.

The Lamb of God has spoken – He's alive, hallelujah, Jesus is alive! *(repeat)*

We Pray for Our Pastor

Max Dick

✠ WE ENGAGE THE WORD ✠

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Sermon Response

IN CHRIST ALONE ⁴

Epworth Chancel Choir

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song

This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease

My Comforter, my All in All. Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh. Fullness of God in helpless babe.

This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save

'Till on that cross as Jesus died, God's vow of grace was satisfied.

For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay light of the world by darkness slain.

Then bursting forth in glorious Day up from the grave He rose again.

And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me.

For I am His and He is mine bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt of life, no fear in death this is the power of Christ in me.

From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.

'til He returns or calls me home. Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Invitation to Offering Offerings are given through check, on-line giving & Texting at 302-488-0038

Bless your heart for supporting our ministries

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

MAN OF SORROWS ⁵

Man of sorrows, Lamb of God, by His own betrayed.
The sin of man and wrath of God has been on Jesus laid.
Silent as He stood accused, beaten, mocked and scorned.
Bowing to the Father's will, He took a crown of thorns

Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation, where Your love poured out over me.
Now my soul cries out, "Hallelujah! Praise and honor unto Thee!"

Sent of heaven, God's own Son, to purchase and redeem
and reconcile the very ones who nailed Him to that tree. *{Chorus}*

Now my debt is paid, it is paid in full by the precious blood that my Jesus spilled.
Now the curse of sin has no hold on me. Whom the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed.

(Repeat section – Chorus)

See the stone is rolled away. Behold, the empty tomb.

Hallelujah! God be praised! He's risen from the grave. *{Chorus}*

TAG: Praise and honor unto Thee!

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

Words of Assurance

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

✠ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ✠

*The Great Thanksgiving Prayer

At the table, Easter people gather now, let voices ring.
Lift your hearts to God, Creator; Lift your hearts, and praises bring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Resurrection people, sing!

In the right time God sent Jesus, God-made-flesh, God face-to-face;
Showing us the ways of justice - Healing, preaching, teaching faith.
Sing Hosanna! Sing Hosanna! Jesus, Savior, Gift of Grace!

With disciples He shared supper - Cup of life and living bread
Symbols of His body, broken, signs of His redeeming love
We remember! We remember! Grace and mercy we are fed.

Pour on us your Holy Spirit, we, your people gathered here.
Take these gifts of bread and cup now, make them be as Christ for us.
We, your people, we, your people with the world Christ's body share!

ALL: Let us live as Easter people, bound no more by death and fear.
We are children of God's kingdom, God's redemption time is here.
Now we gather, now we gather, gather for this holy meal!

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

§ 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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

✠ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ✠

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

MY REDEEMER LIVES⁶

I know He rescued my soul, His blood, He covered my sin, I believe, I believe.
My shame, He's taken away, my pain is healed in His name, I believe, I believe.
I'll raise a banner; my Lord has conquered the grave!

My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives!

My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! (*repeat to top*)

You lift my burden, I rise with You.

I'm dancing on this mountain top to see Your kingdom come. (*refrain 2x*)

Bulletins for the month of April are sponsored by Epworth.

Stephen Ministers, wearing blue name badges, will be at each service if anyone in the Epworth family wants to talk about any life challenges.

The special Peace Candle on the Chancel shines to remind us of God's desire for peace throughout our world and our call to be God's peacemakers.

DVD and Broadcast Ministries: All Church Services at Epworth are presented using multimedia technology. The screens above the Chancel area are used for text, videos, photographs and live cameras. Each service is digitally recorded for archive purposes as well as for distribution to our homebound members on DVD. These recordings may also be broadcast or archived on our web page. Therefore; you may, at any time, be seen and recorded on camera - anywhere throughout the Sanctuary.

Assisting with Today's Service

Acolyte

Sound Ben Carper, Noah Ryan, Tommy Vyas, Alex Tamburello, Mickie McManamon

Ushers Head Usher: Chet Sprague

Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

¹ *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*: Charles Wesley, 1739; *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

² *Coming Out of Isolation*: Mark Gruber-Lebowitz, 2021; Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824

³ *Jesus Is Alive*: Ron Kenoly ©1987 Integrity's Hosanna Music

⁴ *In Christ Alone*: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend ©2001 Kingsway Thankyou Music.

⁵ *Man of Sorrows*: Brooke Ligertwood & Matt Crocker ©Hillsong Publishing

⁶ *My Redeemer Lives*: Reuben Morgan ©1998 Reuben Morgan/Hillsongs Publishing

Ministers: The Church Family... *Lay Leader:* Mike Tyler

Lead Pastor: Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith ... *Pastor of Community & Communications:* Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

Minister of Music: Doug Yetter ... *Coordinator of Caring Ministries:* Mickie McManamon

Office Manager: Darlene Ford ... *Special Projects:* Debbie Hunt ... *Administrative Assistant:* Barbara Kurtz

Lead Interpreter: Sandy Davis ... *Sound Tech:* Ben Carper ... *Video Production:* Thomas Vyas

Preschool Director: Betsy Plowman ... *Nursery:* Cathy Crawford

Custodian: Wanda Hudson ... *Maintenance:* Mike Harrigan ... *Cemetery Superintendent:* Jay Stevenson



EPWORTH
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7:45 & 11:15 - Traditional 9:15 - Contemporary