

# Banning United Methodist Church

## Easter Sunday

### April 20, 2025

#### GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Marilyn Casey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marilyn Casey

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

#### WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marilyn Casey

L: Christ the Lord is risen today.

**P: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

L: Earth and heaven in chorus say.

**P: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

L: Love's redeeming work is done.

**P: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

L: Christ has opened paradise.

**P: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

OPENING HYMN

"Christ is Alive" vs. 1, 3 & 5

UMH #318

†OPENING PRAYER

Marilyn Casey

**God of life and love, we are eager to hear the *good news* of new life. Enter our lives and cast our fears aside. Lead us on a journey from grief and despair to hope and joy. We are grateful for Your transformative love. We are eager to rejoice in the glory of this day! Give us joyful spirits and open hearts. Amen.**

PSALM READING

Marilyn Casey

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 NRSV

<sup>1</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! <sup>2</sup>Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." <sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. <sup>15</sup>There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; <sup>16</sup>the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly." <sup>17</sup>I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. <sup>18</sup>The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. <sup>19</sup>Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. <sup>20</sup>This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. <sup>21</sup>I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. <sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. <sup>23</sup>This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. <sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor Doug

John 20:1-18 NRSV

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>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.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Easter Story In Brief**

Woman 1: We went to the tomb, bringing fragrant spices to anoint Jesus' body.

Woman 2: The stone was rolled away.

Woman 3: The body was gone.

Woman 1: Two men dressed in gleaming, bright clothing were there.

Woman 2: We were frightened. What was happening?

Woman 3: The men said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn't here but has risen."

Woman 1: We went home and told the disciples.

Woman 2: They didn't believe us. They thought we spoke nonsense.

Woman 3: Peter went to see for himself. He was amazed!

**All: Jesus is Alive! Alleluia!**

### **SERMON**

"Because He Lives!"

Pastor Doug

### **PRAYERS**

Pastor Doug

CHILDREN IN PRAYER (After each slide: In Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer)

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

**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 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.**

### **PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Marilyn Casey

### **OFFERTORY**

Cathy Mauge

### **†DOXOLOGY**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **†PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Marilyn Casey

**God of life and love, we are grateful for Your promise of resurrection and new life. Your love is stronger than the powers of evil and injustice. We bring our gifts this day with joy. Use our gifts and our lives to proclaim Christ's triumph over death. Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

**CLOSING HYMN** "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

UMH #327

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

**†BENEDICTION**

Pastor Doug