

PRELUDE "Grace Greater than Our Sin" by Johnston/Towner Thelma Downey

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Marilyn Casey
For all who lose sight of hope, adjust our perspective, catch our eye, and touch us, Risen Savior, with Your surprising presence.

WELCOME Marilyn Casey

CALL TO WORSHIP Marilyn Casey

L: How joyful it is, to celebrate the *good news* of God's love!

P: We are called to be Easter people!

L: Darkness cannot claim us!

P: Fear cannot bind us!

L: Christ is Risen!

P: Christ is Risen, indeed! AMEN!

OPENING HYMN "Easter People, Raise Your Voices" vs. 1 & 3 Hymnal Page #304

1. Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring. Christ has brought us heaven's choicest; heavenly music, let it ring. Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

3. Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

OPENING PRAYER Marilyn Casey

Holy God, we give thanks that You often reveal Yourself to be different from our expectations. When we long for the love we have known in the past, our eyes are dimmed to the beauty You reveal to us now. As Your first followers struggled to see how a suffering Savior could be the Messiah, we strain to recognize You still today. Come, Spirit, make Yourself known in the study of scripture, in our songs of praise, and especially in the grace and love we offer one another. Make Yourself known in every friend we have yet to meet in Your good and blessed Name. Amen.

READINGS Marilyn Casey

Luke 24: 36-49 NIV

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in Your minds? ³⁹ Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself! Touch Me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, He asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave Him a piece of broiled

fish, ⁴³ and He took it and ate it in their presence. ⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His Name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "REUNITING WITH THE RESURRECTED LORD" Pastor Tom

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE Pastor Tom

THE LORD'S PRAYER Pastor Tom

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.

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS) Pastor Tom

DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal #95

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

Generous God, You put love into human form in Jesus, Who lived, died, and was raised to eternal life. Receive now these offerings, that Your grace may live today through the work of Your church. We offer these gifts with our time, our commitment, and our love, that the world may witness, without doubt, that Christ is alive today. In Your holy Name, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" vs. 1 & 2 Hymnal Page #312

1 Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia! To his throne above the skies, Alleluia!

Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia! Reascends His native heaven, Alleluia!

2 There the glorious triumph waits, Alleluia! Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!

Christ hath conquered death and sin, Alleluia! Take the King of glory in, Alleluia!

BENEDICTION Pastor Tom

POSTLUDE "Precious Name" by Baxter/Doane Thelma Downey