



*Today's Easter flower arrangement was provided by Jennifer Sereda and Art Smith.*

**PRELUDE** *Hymn of Promise*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**who has given us new life and hope,  
who raised Jesus Christ from the dead.**  
God has claimed us as his own;  
**God has brought us out of darkness  
and has made us light to the world.**  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**HYMN** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
All creation join to say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!  
  
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!  
  
Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Jesus died the world to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!  
  
Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!  
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!  
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!  
Risen Christ, triumphant now, Alleluia!

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Glorious God of life,  
by the mighty resurrection of Jesus Christ  
you overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him.  
Grant that we who celebrate with joy  
Christ's rising from the dead  
may be raised with him  
to a life of reconciliation, joy, and peace.  
Let no shadow of the grave terrify us,  
and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you.  
Reveal yourself to us this day, and all our days.  
Amen!



**SONG** *Now the Green Blade Rises*

Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,  
thinking that he never would awake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.



**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Luke 24:13-24, and  
2 Corinthians 5:17-19

**MESSAGE**    **The Promise and Challenge of Easter**



**PRAYER**

**HYMN**    *Christ is Alive!*

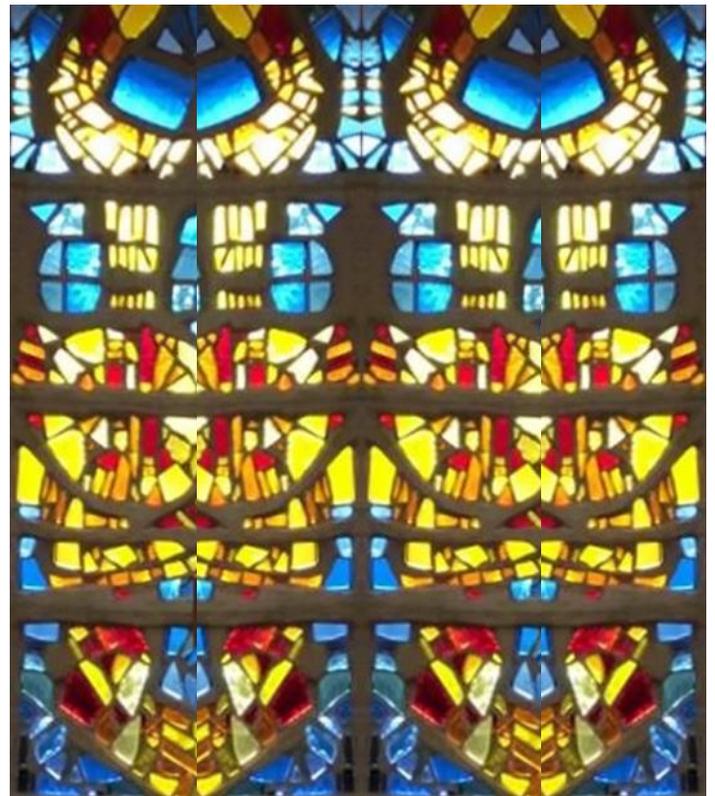
Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.



**BENEDICTION**

May the grace of Christ attend you,  
The love of God surround you,  
And the Holy Spirit keep you,  
That you may live in faith,  
Abound in hope,  
And grow in love,  
Now and forevermore.  
And all of God's people said, Amen!

*"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."* - John 20:21

**POSTLUDE**    *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

