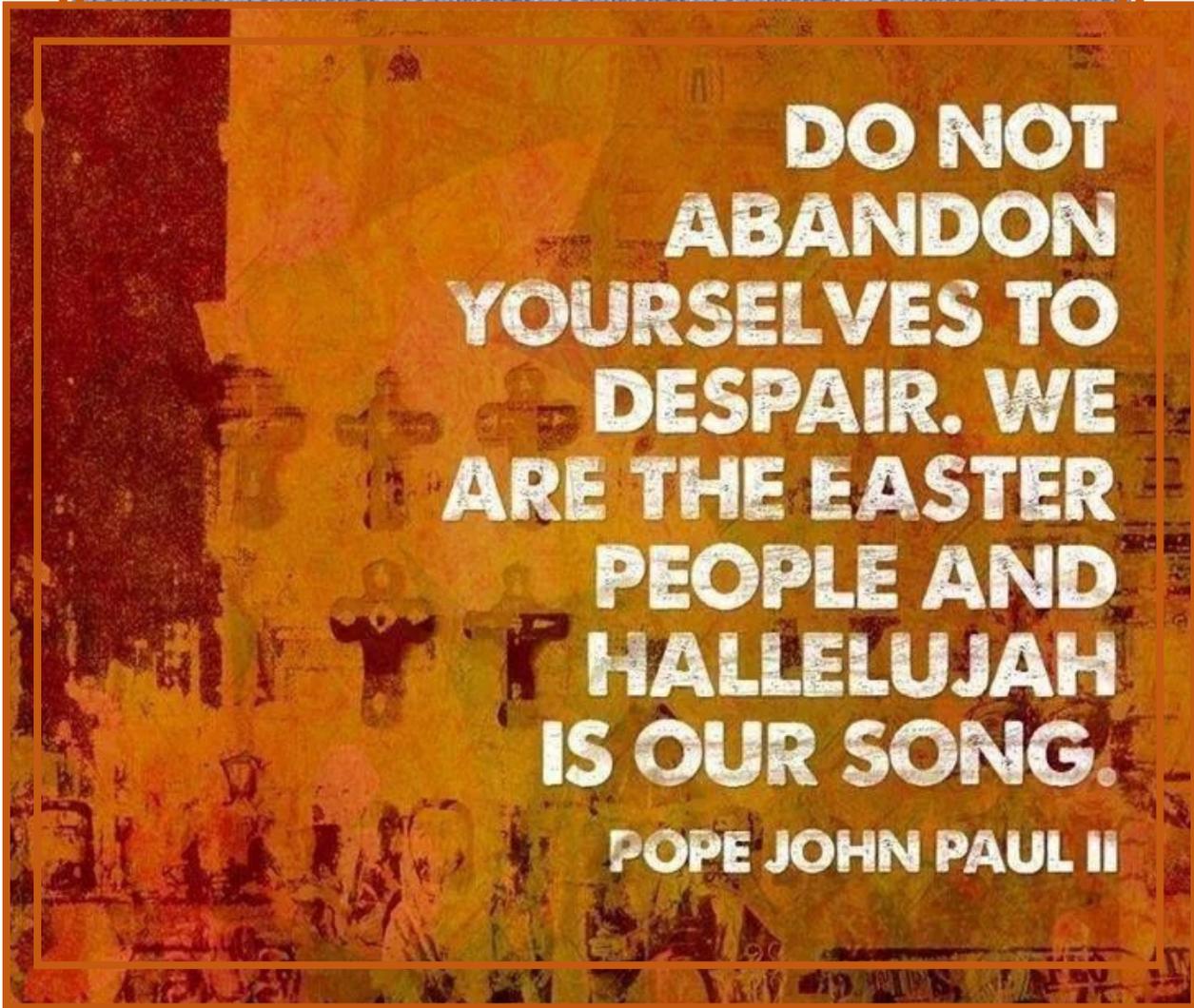


*Centenary United Methodist Church*



**DO NOT  
ABANDON  
YOURSELVES TO  
DESPAIR. WE  
ARE THE EASTER  
PEOPLE AND  
HALLELUJAH  
IS OUR SONG.**

**POPE JOHN PAUL II**

*Easter Sunday*

*April 12, 2020*

# Easter Sunday – April 12, 2020

Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Centenary United Methodist Church

Worship Leader: Rev. Heidi Chamberlain ~ Music Director: Janet Tucker

\*Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

## WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

### PRELUDE

### INTERCESSION FOR EASTER DAY 2020

*written by Rev. Gail Ramshaw*

L: On this Easter Day marked by both sorrow and joy, our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need include both heartfelt lament and fervent praise.

*A brief silence.*

God our Sanctuary, we lament that we cannot gather today for public worship, that death stalks the church, and that our sorrows and fears blunt our songs of Alleluia...

*A brief silence.*

**All: Show the church your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.**

L: And yet around the globe we praise you for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, for our baptismal washing in his life, for your presence come to us in the word, and for the hope the gospel brings...

*A brief silence.*

**All: We praise you for the church: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

L: God our Creator, we lament that our life styles have harmed your creation and that our efforts to repair your earth are now postponed...

*A brief silence.*

**All: Show the earth your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.**

L: And yet here in the north we praise you for the beauty of the natural world, for springtime flowers and budding trees, for the soil and rain that nourish the crops...

*A brief silence.*

**All: We praise you for the earth: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

L: God our Governor, we lament that war and violence still rage, that countless people suffer injustice, that the plight of refugees seems beyond solution, that appropriate governmental action is delayed and inadequate...

*A brief silence.*

**All: Show the world your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.**

L: And yet we praise you that there is peace on our streets, that some elected officials and many aid agencies are devoting themselves to save the people and to share our food, and that we are given connection to friends and family through technology...

*A brief silence.*

**All: We praise you for community: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

L: God our Physician, we lament all who suffer, those we name here before you... but especially we lament the coronavirus and its incalculable suffering, the many thousands sick, the fear instilled, the loss of employment, the cancelation of plans, the overflow in hospitals, the scarcity of supplies, the exhaustion of medical staff...

*A brief silence.*

**All: Show all the needy your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.**

L: And yet we praise you for health and well-being wherever it thrives, for the dedication of medical workers, for the goodwill of volunteers, for the generosity of benefactors, and for the comfort we receive from the power of the resurrection...

*A brief silence.*

**All: We praise you for healing: Alleuia! Thanks be to God!**

L: God, our Everlasting Arms, mother us in our heartache and distress, receive now our personal laments, and help each of us to praise your name.

*A longer period of silence.*

**All: We praise you for hearing our prayers:  
Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

L: God our Life Eternal, we lament the thousands dead and the sadness of all who mourn, and we remember before you all who have died in the faith...

*A brief silence.*

**All: Show to all humanity your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.**

L: And yet here we join in our Alleluias, and we praise you on this Easter Day for your promise of an endless banquet of joyous life in your presence, when diseases and sorrows will be no more.

*A brief silence.*

**All: In life and death we praise you: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

L: God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are Source of life, Word of salvation, and Power of mercy, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your compassionate might, for the sake of him who lived, died, and rose for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: AMEN**

**SPECIAL MUSIC / #VIGIL / WERE YOU THERE?**

featuring Andrea Thomas

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

### **PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION**

L: Almighty God, Jesus conquered death and offered to us your salvation.  
Grant that we who greet our risen Lord may follow him  
from the empty tomb into eternal life, for he lives and reigns  
with you forever. AMEN

### **READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Acts 10:34-43

### **SPECIAL MUSIC / #VIGIL / LORD HAVE MERCY**

featuring Greg & Lizzy

### **READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Matthew 28:1-10

*After the Gospel reading declare three times:*

**All: Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

### **THE MESSAGE**

Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

“He’s Out There...”

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC / #VIGIL / I HAVE SEEN THE LORD**

featuring John Finch

### **PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

### **OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE DOXOLOGY** “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH #95

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All: We open our eyes to see His glory.  
We open our ears to hear His wisdom.  
We open our hands to offer Him gifts.  
We open our mouths to sing His praise.  
We open our hearts to offer Him our love. Alleluia. AMEN**

## **GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** “Bind Us Together” TFWS #2226

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.*

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.*

*There is only one God, there is only one King; There is only one body, that is why we sing.*

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.*

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.*

**\*THE BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit is with us! **AMEN**  
Go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Shout three times:*

**All: Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

And he departed from our sight that we might return to our heart,  
and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here.  
-St. Augustine

Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from *MinistryMatters.com* ©2017, 2020  
Christian Worship and Devotion during Social Distancing: A Resource for United Methodists ©2020

*Rev. Mark J. Webb, Resident Bishop – Lay Leader: Dan Moore Snyder*

*Rev. Mike Weeden, District Superintendent – Administrative Assistant: Briana Maldonado*

*Rev. Heidi R. Chamberlain, Pastor – Choir Director & Organist: Janet Tucker*

*Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Beth Mosher*

**Next Sunday: April 19, 2020**

Liturgical Color: White – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER

**Greeter(s): All of the Congregation!**

**TO CONTACT**

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