

Memorial United Methodist Church At-Home Worship
Second Sunday of Easter, April 19, 2020

I'm so glad you're taking this opportunity to participate in worship with us. While we are not gathering in the sanctuary, I trust and believe, we are gathered together with God in spirit and in truth.
—Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome and Prayer

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

God of empty tombs and abundant life, who announces fresh starts in the wake of abrupt endings, accept our tears of grief and be patient with our fears, as we listen once again for your good news of resurrection. May your gift of time bring us renewed hope and deeper understanding, releasing us from all that would hold us back. Amen.

Music to Center Ourselves: *“My Life Flows On”*

My life flows on in endless song;	What though my joys and comforts die?
Above earth's lamentation	The Lord my Savior liveth;
I hear the sweet though far off hymn	What though the darkness gather round!
That hails a new creation:	Songs in the night He giveth:
Through all the tumult and the strife	No storm can shake my inmost calm
I hear the music ringing;	While to that refuge clinging;
It finds an echo in my soul—	Since Christ is Lord of Heav'n and earth,
How can I keep from singing?	How can I keep from singing?

We Share the Story of God

Sharing from the Gospel: Mark 16:1-8 (NRSV)

Allie Livingston

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Message for Today: “Wait, What?”

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Respond to God

Responding in Song: “Now the Green Blade Riseth”

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

Forth He came at Easter,
like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days
in the grave had lain;

Quick from the dead
the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like
wheat that springeth 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 that springeth green.

Offering Our Gifts and Commitments

Please give online at www.gladstonechurch.org

Or mail checks payable to: Memorial UMC, 1920 Lake Shore Dr., Gladstone, MI 49837

Offering Our Prayers with 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, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Please email prayer requests to mumc@gladstonechurch.org or call (906) 428-9311

We Go, Blessed to Serve

Blessing:

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain.
In the Risen Christ, may you discover new life and growth in days to come,
rising out of whatever darkness you have known.
Like the first disciples, may you find your voice to proclaim the love of God.

Music for Going Forth: “Now the Green Blade Riseth”

To prayerful ponder or discuss:

- What questions do you have in the space between death and resurrection? Between Easter and Pentecost?
- What losses or disappointments are you experiencing? What joys and discoveries?
- How may God be calling you to use this in-between time?
- Write about an experience you may have had in making arrangements after a death. Or, imagine the details and feelings you may have had if you were one of those in Mark's gospel caring for Jesus. Or, draw a picture.
- Look for signs of “the green blade rising” in your life, around your home, or on a walk outside.