

Memorial United Methodist Church At-Home Worship
Third Sunday of Easter, April 26, 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!

Risen Christ, you are the way, the truth, and the life for which we long. As we come before you in worship, may we experience, the power of your resurrection, the reality of your presence, and the abundance of your grace so that we too may rise up to proclaim your love. Amen.

Music to Center Ourselves: *Up From the Grave He Arose*

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Vainly they watch his bed,
Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain: Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever,
with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

[Refrain]
Death cannot keep its prey,
Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!
[Refrain]

We Share the Story of God

Sharing from the Gospel: Matthew 27:62-28:15 (NRSV)

Stammer Family

The next day [after Jesus was crucified], that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

While they were going, some of the guards went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened.

After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, “You must say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.”

So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

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

Message for Today: “What Story Will We Tell?”

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Respond to God

Responding in Song: *I Love to Tell the Story*

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else could do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory

to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story;
more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies
of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story,
it did so much for me;
and that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee. *[Refrain]*

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:

Take courage. May you be filled with the power and promise of the Risen Christ. May you go and share the gospel story in which disruptions become new opportunities, disappointments become fresh starts, and even death leads to resurrection life. Amen.

Music for Going Forth:

To prayerful ponder or discuss:

- Who or what may be controlling or distorting how you tell your story?
- What disruptions or disappointments are you facing? Opportunities? Fresh starts?
- Where is the Risen Christ in your story? Where are you in God’s story?