

Memorial United Methodist Church At-Home Worship
Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 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, in the midst of our fears and doubts, you come to us offering your peace, breathing into us your spirit. As we gather to worship, may we experience your presence and be filled by your spirit, so that we too may rise up to proclaim your love. Amen.

Music to Center Ourselves: *Fantasy Prelude on an Easter Hymn*

Kathy Young

We Share the Story of God

Sharing from the Gospel: John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

Berta Johnson

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met, were locked for fear of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Sharing a Children's Story

Joy Jorgensen

Message for Today: When Jesus Comes into the Room

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Respond to God

Responding in Song: *Come, Ye Faithful* (UMH 315 vv. 2, 4, 5)

Debbie Hubbard

'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death,
as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

but today amidst thine own
thou didst stand, bestowing
thine own peace, which evermore
passeth human knowing.

"Alleuia!" now we cry
to our King immortal,
who, triumphant, burst the bars
of the tomb's dark portal;
"Alleuia!" with the Son,
God the Father praising;
"Alleuia!" yet again
to the Spirit raising.

Neither might the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal
hold thee as a mortal:

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:

May you experience the peace of the Risen Christ. May you be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. And, may you live to share the abundant and eternal life God gives. Amen.

Music for Going Forth: *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

To prayerful ponder or discuss:

- What or who speaks peace to you at this time in your life?
- Breathe in deeply and then breathe out. Imagine Jesus breathing God's Holy Spirit into you. Keep breathing, paying attention to how that breath feels, filling your lungs. Imagine God's Holy Spirit breath filling your entire body, through your blood stream, out to your fingertips and down to your toes, swirling around your brain and pumping through your heart. Keep breathing, paying attention to how your breath feels going out. Imagine the essence of you mixed with the Holy Spirit of God flowing out into the world. Remember, we all breath in and breath out so much more than virus. Keep breathing.
- What or who gives you space today to breathe deeply?
- What or who inspires you today with courage, energy, wisdom, hope and possibilities?
- To whom can you pass the peace of Christ this week? How and when will you to do it?