

**Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020**

"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen."

~ Mother Theresa

Prelude

Jason Aquila, Organist

Call to Worship

ONE: Don't weep! Don't mourn! There is great Good News!

MANY: Christ the Lord is risen today!

ONE: Put away your garments of mourning; let the light of God's love flood into your lives.

MANY: Christ the Lord is risen today!

ONE: No more do we have to fear the darkness; it has been overcome by God's light.

MANY: Christ the Lord is risen today. ALLELUIA!

Hymn #233

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Prayer of Invocation

Living God, rejoicing in this day of resurrection, we have come to celebrate the strength of your love— a love that triumphs even over death. As we give praise for the miracle of your love made flesh, we thank you for the opportunity to encounter the Risen Christ here in our midst. Amen.

Scripture

Colossians 3:1-4 (NRSV); John 20:1-18 (NRSV)

Message

Frightened, Excited, and Loved

The Rev. R. Brooke Baker

The Pastor's Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn #332

As We Gather at Your Table

Prayer of Confession

God of endless possibility, we confess that we do not always perceive the opportunities you place before us. Caught up in our own hopes, plans, and fantasies, and crushed when they disappoint us, we are slow to see the open pathways you set before us. Open our eyes, that we may accept the new life you offer us, and thus show forth the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Communion Prayer

God of resurrection, when Jesus first offered this meal to his disciples, it was to enlist them in the final suffering and victory; not to deny that bad things happen to good people, but to say that we share in everything we have, and everything that happens to us. We come to this table today to do exactly that — to remind ourselves that we are inextricably part of all the things and people of creation. Let our acceptance of your love be carried to others through this bread and cup. Amen.

Blessing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of new life, with joy we have received this sacrament of bread and cup giving you thanks for Jesus Christ, the risen One, our peace and our hope. Unite your church in Christ's ministry of love and servanthood, that your name may be praised today and every resurrection day forward. Amen.

Hymn #230

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Benediction

Postlude

Jason Aquila, Organist

*Call to Worship from Worship Connection at ministrymatters.com; Prayer of Invocation adapted from Worship Elements at ministrymatters.com; Call to Confession and Prayer of Thanksgiving by Ruth C. Duck adapted from *Bread for the Journey* ed. by Ruth C. Duck; Communion Prayer adapted from *Communion in Times of Natural Disaster* from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship* ed. by Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I. Tirabassi.*

