



He is Risen

EASTER WORSHIP WITH BISHOP LATRELLE EASTERLING

 **Baltimore-Washington Conference**
The United Methodist Church

**IN THIS TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, WE GATHER AS EASTER PEOPLE,
UNITED AS ONE, AND DECLARE, "CHRIST IS RISEN, CHRIST IS RISEN, INDEED!"**

While embracing sacred traditions, this worship experience was filmed following all Maryland government guidelines for social distancing to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. Even so, it is offered to the glory of Almighty God.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

A WELCOME MESSAGE | Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

PRELUDE | "Lento" from Airs for Trumpet by Georg Philipp Telemann

CALL TO WORSHIP | Frederick Douglas Powe, III, Rev. Sherri Wood-Powe, Rev. Kyle Durbin

L: As we gather separately this Easter, in the solitude and sacred spaces of our homes, the body of Christ still boldly proclaims:

P: He lives!

L: As many sanctuaries sit empty, altars unadorned, and six feet of social distancing has become the new norm, the body of Christ still boldly proclaims:

P: He lives!

L: When schools have been closed, teachers and students adapting to new methods of instruction, and almost all parents are becoming stay-at-home moms, dads, and educators, the body of Christ still boldly proclaims:

P: He lives!

L: When businesses are struggling and employees

are worried about their next paycheck, the body of Christ still boldly proclaims:

P: He lives!

L: When healthcare workers and others are putting their lives on the line every day, and the most vulnerable continue to be the most at-risk, the body of Christ still boldly proclaims:

P: He lives!

L: When our days are filled with uncertainty and confusion, or fear and anxiety. When the darkness of Friday and the lost-ness of Saturday seek to claim victory over us, Sunday comes, the sun rises, the Son rises, and the body of Christ boldly proclaims:

**P: He lives! He lives!
Hallelujah! He lives!**

OPENING HYMN | "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

LIGHTING THE EASTER CANDLE | Written by Rev. Stephen R. West

The risen Savior shines upon you! Let our worship resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

The Lord be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

It is indeed right that with open hearts, clear minds, and exuberant voices we should praise you, unseen God, creator of all that is, and your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has ransomed us by his death, and has risen triumphant from the grave. Therefore, in the joy of this blessed

morning, when sin is washed away and mourning is turned to joy, accept our sacrifice of praise.

Grant that this Easter candle may make our darkness light, for Christ the morning star has risen, never again to set, and is alive and reigns forever and ever. **AMEN.*

**Light your candle with us at home.*

OPENING PRAYER | Rev. Kyle Durbin

SPECIAL MUSIC | Revelation 19, BWC Choral Trio with Keys and Drums

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION | Rev. Sherri Wood-Powe

O God, you are making all things new. As we turn to the pages of your ancient and timeless truths, we are desperately waiting for this page of pandemic to finally turn. O great God who rolls stones away, empties tombs, and causes empires to tremble, grant us a mighty

fearlessness as we approach your holy words this morning. Open our hearts and minds, by the undeniable power of your Holy Spirit, so that as your Gospel is proclaimed, we may hear it, receive it with joy, and embrace the new life you are offering today. **AMEN.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON | Matthew 28:1-10 (CEB) Rev. Sherri Wood-Powe, Rev. Kyle Durbin, Frederick Douglas Powe, III

SERMON | "Faith Greater Than Our Fear," Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

HYMN OF RESPONSE | "Give Me Jesus," Kehembe V. Eichelberger

OFFERTORY MESSAGE AND HYMN | Rev. Sherri Wood-Powe

"It is Well With My Soul," David Wise and the TenTwoSix Music Group

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | Christie Latona

CLOSING HYMN | "He Lives" UM Hymnal #310, BWC Choral Trio with Organ

BENEDICTION | Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

And now, as we celebrate this miraculous Holy Day of Easter, may the God who transforms mourning into dancing, despair into hope, great fear into greater faith, crucifixions into empty tombs, and Good Fridays into Greater Sundays, may the God of new life and resurrection fill you with all peace and joy and hope and believing, and may you dwell in peace. God bless each and every one of you. **AMEN.**

POSTLUDE | "Hallelujah Chorus," Messiah by George Fridrich Handel, Severna Park UMC Choir, Organ & Chamber Orchestra