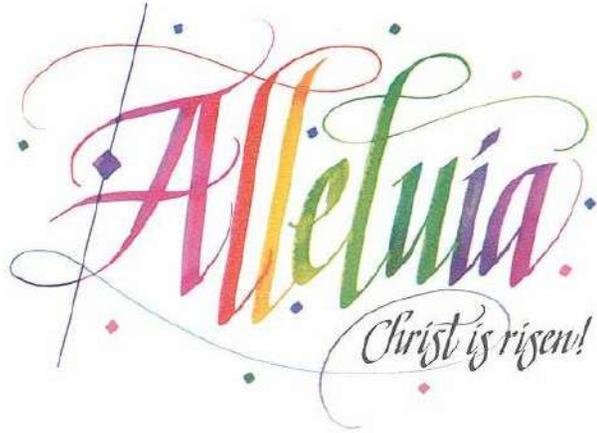


 **RAYNE**  
Memorial United Methodist Church  
**EASTER MORNING**  
April 4, 2021



Our altar flowers today are given to the glory of God with joy on Easter Sunday and in thanksgiving for Jay Hogewood on his birthday by Libby and Mark Adams.



**PRELUDE**  
Marcus St. Julien  
**GATHERING**  
Jay Hogewood

*Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia! The tomb is empty! He has been raised! Alleluia!*  
*Soar we now where Christ has led, following our exalted Head;*  
**made like him, like him we rise;**  
**ours the cross, the grave, the skies!**



*Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free.*  
*He has destroyed it by enduring it. He destroyed hell when he descended into it. He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of his flesh. Hell grasped a corpse, and met God.*  
*It seized earth, and encountered heaven.*  
*It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.*  
*O Death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory?*  
*Christ is risen and you are cast down!*  
*Christ is risen and life is set free!*

John Chrysostom, 4th C CE



**CALL TO WORSHIP**  
Marissa Teauseau Horvath

*Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.*

**God's steadfast love lasts forever.**

*Enter the gates of righteousness.*

**Come before God with song.**

*We are alive today, praising God.*

**God is our strength.**

*This is the day the Lord has made.*

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**



**CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY # 302**

- 1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**
- 2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**
- 3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia! Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!**
- 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**
- 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia! Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!**
- 6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia! Everlasting life is this, Alleluia! Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia! Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!**



## PRAYER

The abundant life and love of Jesus Christ, our Savior, be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**God of hope,**

**in the midst of death, you call forth life.**

**When all hope seemed gone,  
you raised Jesus from the grave.**

**We come before you today,  
longing for your life-giving presence.**

**God of new life,**

**raise us up with all your people.**

**Lift us up from the tombs of our despair and our doubt that  
we may rejoice in your power over death.**

**God of joy,**

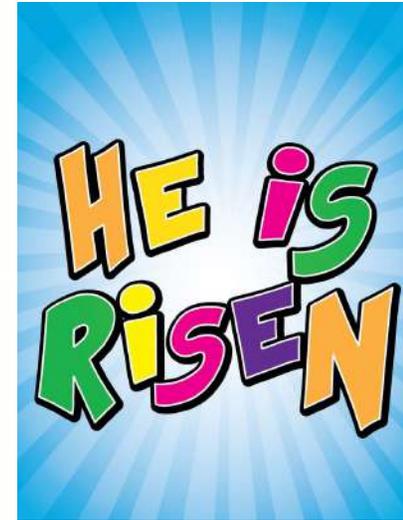
**fill our hearts with alleluias as we sing your praises  
through Jesus Christ, we pray.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**



## THE RED STEPS

Children's Moment



## OFFERING

soloist, Laurie Phillips

### *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*

by G.F. Handel from Messiah

*I know that my Redeemer liveth,  
and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.  
And though worms destroy this body,  
yet in my flesh shall I see God.  
For now is Christ risen from the dead,  
the firstfruits of them that sleep.*

You may give your offering this morning by  
TEXTING: giverayne TO: 73256 or at [www.raymenola.org/contribute](http://www.raymenola.org/contribute).  
You may also make your 2021 pledge online.



## MARK 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 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.



## MUSIC

### Psalm 118: *This is the Day*

soloist, Rebecca Sullivant

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!

*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good,  
His mercy endures forever.*

*Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever!"*

Refrain

*The Lord's right hand has struck with power;  
the Lord's right hand is exalted.*

*I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord!*

Refrain

*The stone which the builders  
rejected has become the cornerstone.*

*By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes!*

*Alleluia!*



## HOMILY

### *Open-Ended Empty-Tomb (Trusting the Nowhere Christ)*



## THE RAYNE CHANCEL CHOIR

### *Easter, Remind Us*

created by, C. Leonard Raybon

*Were they anxious and perplexed? Would Christ rise day after next?  
None could cite that ancient text. Easter, remind us.*

*Lies were Satan's stranglehold: "Was it true what you were told?"  
You'll be left here unconsolated." Easter, remind us.*

*But their faith would soon resume when they found an empty tomb.  
Naught but linen to exhume. Easter, remind us.*

*Seems we're in a God-Eclipse. Words of worry on our lips,  
Restless, drumming fingertips. Easter, remind us.*

*Can we keep our brave veneer when our "Third Day" makes a year?  
Will the faithul's faith adhere? Easter, remind us.*

*Easter, when we feel unmoored give us hope to climb toward;  
Signal to the Risen Lord! Easter, remind us!*



## INVITATION

*We joyfully welcome all  
who wish to explore joining  
our community of faith  
and encourage you to call  
Pastor Jay at 225-772-3550  
or email him at  
jay@raynenola.org*

**BECAUSE  
HE LIVES**

*I can face tomorrow*



## **EASTER PEOPLE, RAISE YOUR VOICES**

#304

Easter people raise your voices,  
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;  
heavenly music let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us  
from our pressing here below.  
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster  
to our God who rights the wrong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.



## **BENEDICTION**



*Go in Peace,*  
**Stand firm  
in your faith.  
Be Strong.  
Be Brave.**  
**Let everything you do,  
be done in love.**

## **POSTLUDE**