

**Easter Sunday**

**April 5, 2015**

Rev. Dr. Charles A. Wiessner, Pastor  
Dr. Lonieta Cornwall, Music Director

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**The Approach to God**

**PRELUDE**                                      *“Christ Arose”*                                      Hand Bell Choir

**VOTUM**

**CHORAL INTROIT**                                      *“I’m Gonna Rise”*                                      Doug Sonderfan/Choir

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Jesus our Lord is alive! He has risen from the dead!

**Jesus is alive and has risen from the dead!**

A remarkable event has taken place, an event unique in history. Jesus, whom once was dead, is now alive!

**Jesus is alive and present here – today – right now – as we celebrate his resurrection!**

He is in our midst! Let us rejoice! Christ the Lord has risen!

**Christ our Lord has risen indeed!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE #204**                                      *“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”*

**\*SALUTATION**

**EASTER PRAYER**                                      (unison)

Our Father, we thank you for the beauty of this day, for the glorious message that all nature proclaims: the Easter lilies with their waxen throats eloquently singing the good news; the birds so impatient to begin their song; every flowering tree and shrub a living proclamation of your greatness.

Lead us, we ask you, to the grave that is empty, into the garden of the resurrection where we may meet the risen Lord. May we never again live as if we were dead.

In your resurrected presence restore our faith, our hope, and our joy. Grant to our spirits refreshment, rest and peace. O Living Christ, we ask that you go with us wherever we go; be our companion in all that we do. And for this great gift of salvation and eternal life with you we offer ourselves as living sacrifices to your glory and honor. Amen.

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG OF PRAISE

*“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High, Lord I love to sing Your praises.*

*I’m so glad You’re in my life. I’m so glad You came to save us.*

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way.*

*From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky....Lord I lift Your Name on high.”*

**UNISON READING #60**    **I Corinthians 15**                      Page 531 Hymnal

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**    *“Hallelujah, Christ Arose”*

## The Word of God

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**SCRIPTURE**                                      **John 20:1-10**        (Page 88 New Testament)

**\*HYMN #205**    *“Come, Ye Faithful”*

**SERMON**                                      **“The Empty Tomb”**  
*“Low in the Grave He Lay”* (insert)

## Our Response to God

**\*CONFESSION OF FAITH** *“I Have Seen the Lord”*  
**John 20:11-18**        (Page 88 New Testament)  
*“I Serve a Risen Savior”* (insert)

### RECEPTION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**    *“Crown Him With Many Crowns”*

### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

**WE GO FORTH**    **John 21:19-23**  
#262 *“Thy Life Was Given for Me”*

**\*CLOSING HYMN #208**    *“The Day of Resurrection!”*

**\*BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**                                      *“I’m Gonna Rise” - Reprise*

### \*POSTLUDE

\*The congregation may stand.

## **Easter Lilies Given in Honor of:**

Our mothers, Alberta Codling and Eleanor Dey, by Bob &  
Nancy Dey

Bill's mother, Florence Kalsbeek, by Rebecca & Bill Kalsbeek

Rebecca's father, James Talton, by Rebecca & Bill Kalsbeek

FRCC Choirs, by Joe & Liz White

Our grandchildren, by Liz & Joe White

## **Easter Lilies Given in Memory of:**

My sister, Carol Hinds, by Barbara Araromi

My son, Thomas DeWitt, by Jane DeWitt

My Aunt, Lucy DeWitt, by Jeff DeWitt

Mike's mother, Barbara Ellison, by Lisa & Michael Ellison

Lisa's father, Henry Kelch, by Lisa & Michael Ellison

My parents, Helen & Sam Ferris, by John Ferris

My syster, Barbara Kennedy, by Chris Forte

My parents, Ralph & Helen Means, by Chris Forte

My husband, Francis Hawk, by Noriko Hawk

Bill's father, Gerald Kalsbeek, by Rebecca & Bill Kalsbeek

Rebecca's mother, Mary Talton, by Rebecca & Bill Kalsbeek

Loved ones, by Bill and Sabra Leadbitter

Loved ones, by Kathy Lindaberry

David's parents, Warren & Frances McDowell,

by David & Marilyn McDowell

Marilyn's parents, Arthur & Ruth Ahrens,

by David & Marilyn McDowell

My brother, Charles Newton, by Barbara Nickel