



First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

April 20, 2025

PRELUDE - Hani

Prelude on "Easter Hymn"

Arr. Franklin Ritter

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PROCESSIONAL HYMN #159 *Lift High the Cross* (v. 1)

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.

Refrain

Lift High The Cross (Crucifer)

George William Kitchin | Michael Robert Newbolt | Sydney Hugo Nicholson

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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved, Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: Our Savior is risen!

All: Our Savior is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: Steadfast Love is risen!

All: Steadfast Love is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: This is the day that God has made;

All: Let us rejoice and be glad! Alleluia!

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #302 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* (v. 1-4)

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!

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today (Easter Hymn)

Charles Wesley | Lyra Davidica

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EASTER PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Christ, we come to the empty tomb, we see our own death, we see our own tomb, we see our own emptiness. And we remember how we have treated other people—members of our family, friends, and neighbors.

All: **Lord, we come to your tomb, we see a hungry world before us, the pain of starving children, the guilt of war on our hands, and we know that collectively we share in those injustices.**

Leader: Lord, we come to the empty tomb, we search within ourselves, and we cannot escape what we are, people caught up in the pain of our own wrongdoing, for some, a deep sense of loneliness and a frustration of what we would be but are not.

All: **Lord, when we come to the empty tomb, we lay before you our pain, our emptiness and look to you for hope.**

Leader: People of God, why do you seek the living among the dead in an empty tomb? Are you afraid, are you uncertain, and are you uncomfortable here?

All: **Our wounds are deep, we have turned away from that man, we have broken with him and seek his fellowship.**

Leader: Do not dwell on your wounds any longer for he has risen to heal you, he has risen to forgive you; he has risen to change us all and bind us together now. Christ has risen to forgive us.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

(Excerpted from Service of Holy Communion 2010, posted on the River of Life website.)

HOLY BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

The Introduction to the Service

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Through confirmation, and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, help us to remember what we have learned through the confirmation process. Help us to live our lives according to the beliefs we proclaim and the vows that we affirm today. Strengthen our faith and help it to grow and mature. Inspire us to cherish the relationships we have built with You, our fellow confirmands, and all in the church. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

The Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

- **Confirmands: I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

- **Confirmands: I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

- **Confirmands: I do.**

According to the grace given to you, will you remain a faithful member of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representative in the world?

- **Confirmands: I will.**

Affirmation of Faith

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

- **Confirmands and Congregation:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

- **Confirmands and Congregation:** I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father; and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

- **Confirmands and congregation:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The Laying On Of Hands and Confirmation (*Each family is asked to come forward)

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

- **Confirmands and Congregation:** Amen.

May the Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

- **Confirmands and Congregation:** Amen.

The Charge to the Confirmands

As a member of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

- **Confirmands:** I will.

Do you promise with God's help to live by the three simple rules of Methodism: To do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with God?

- **Confirmands:** I do.

And to the Confirmands and all members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in the ministry of First United Methodist Church of Torrance and uphold it with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?

- **Confirmands and congregation:** We will.

The Commendation and Welcome

Members of the household of God, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

- **Congregational Response:** We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal. Amen.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC - *The Holy Trinity* - Joshua

In the beginning, let me set the scene,
Three in one, divine and clean.
The Father on the throne, sovereign and supreme,
Spoke the world to life like a vivid dream.

Creator of the stars, Author of the plan,
Hands formed the dust, breathed life into man.
He's the Source, the Light, and the fire,
Holy is His name, none higher, none higher.

(Chorus)

Trinity flow, yeah, three but one,
Father, Spirit, and the Risen Son.
No division, no confusion, just unity,
One love, one God—Holy Trinity.

(Verse 2)

Now the Son came down in humility,
Walking with the lost, healed disease.
From the cradle to the cross, He paid our debt,
Wore a crown of thorns, no regret.

Jesus the Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Rose from the grave, broke every chain.
He's the Way, the Truth, the Life, the Door,
Messiah, Redeemer, forevermore.

(Chorus)

Trinity flow, yeah, three but one,
Father, Spirit, and the Risen Son.
No division, no confusion, just unity,
One love, one God—Holy Trinity.

(Verse 3)

Last but not least, let the Spirit speak,
Moves in the soul, lifts up the weak.
Comforter, Guide, wind that blows,
Fire in the heart, peace that flows.

He's the whisper when the world gets loud,
Brings light when the night drops down like a shroud.
He dwells within, makes saints from sinners,
Starts with grace, but ends with winners.

(Final Chorus)

Trinity flow, now you know the name,
Three in one, forever the same.
Father above, Son who came low,
Spirit within—let the love overflow.

JOYS AND CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER / 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 glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

For those who are called and able, gifts and tithes can still be made through [online giving](#), by mailing them in, and by dropping them off to the church office through the secure mail slot to the left of the double door entry to the church hallway.

OFFERTORY MUSIC - Sofia

I Surrender All

Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter | Winfield Scott Weeden
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DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Old 100th)

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Radiant God, whose love endures forever, we gather today in the light of resurrection hope, offering these gifts as a response to the abundant grace we have received. In this period of spiritual renewal, may our giving reflect the joy of the empty tomb and the promise of life everlasting. Transform our offerings into acts of love that bring light to the world, just as Christ's light dawned in our hearts. We dedicate these gifts to your service, trusting that, in your hands, they will bring forth new life. Amen.

(Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, John 20:1-18)

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 (NRSV)

19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, a when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Response

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Anthem - Chancel Choir

The Day of Resurrection

Henry T. Smith | Robert Hobby

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SERMON - Rev. Jacob Lee

Its Own Order

CLOSING HYMN #364 *Because He Lives*

1. God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
he came to love, heal, and forgive;
he lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
because he lives, all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because he lives.

3. And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
and then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns.

*Refrain***Because He Lives**

Gloria Gaither | William J. Gaither

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CHORAL RESPONSE**"Hallelujah Chorus" from Messiah**

George Frideric Handel

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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE - Hani****Triumphantly Risen!**

Ross Anderson

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<https://firstumctorrance.org/giving/>.

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