

***Easter Sunday***  
**April 4, 2021**

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey  
*“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today/Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”*

Centering Words  
The tomb is empty! Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed!

Call to Worship *“Christ is Risen”* Dan Greshel  
Mary Louise Robinson

Easter Proclamation

Prayer of Illumination  
Open our ears that we may hear and our hearts and minds that we may receive your word O Lord our rock and redeemer.

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

New Testament Reading Acts 10: 34-43

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Special Music Christopher A. McCroskey  
*“Crown Him with Many Crowns/Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

Gospel Reading John 20: 1-18

Sermon *Easter Light Overcomes All Darkness* Rev. John D. Jordan

The Service of the Table  
*(During this time the prepackaged elements will be distributed to the congregation while the Pastor prepares the Bread and Cup.)*

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Hymn *“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”*

Benediction  
We are sent forth in the power of Christ’s resurrection. Alleluia! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Response  
*God Be with You till We Meet Again*

God be with you till we meet again;  
by his counsels guide, uphold you,  
with his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

From *The United Methodist Hymnal* Copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House, 673.

***TODAY’S LOVELY FLOWERS*** are given by **Bonnie Ramsey**: *All Glory to God who has given us the Risen Savior Christ Jesus. Glory Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah!*

## Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Assistant: *K. C. Warble*  
Choir Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey*  
Church Musician

**“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...”**

Lynn Martin Oren Edwards Patsy Shuler Dean Frye  
Steve White Latson Lewis George Taylor Steve Aiello

**Shut-Ins:** Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Carolyn Hardee; Francis & Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Wayne Tallon; Irvin Wells

**Family and Friends:** *Lisa Baghdady (a friend of Edwa Meek); Chip Hooker (Wayne Hooker's father); Robert Bradley (Business Associate of Simon Ross); Dave Burrell (Business Associate of Tommy Gleaton); Gene Odom (grandfather of Mark Branham); Gary Becton (friend of Mark Branham); Audrey Cassidy (sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson); Rusty Browning (friend of Erin Derrick); Monnie Tiller, Mrs. Miles, Jerry Fowler (friends of Chris Derrick); Donna Walker (coworker of Jack Stevens); Kelly Knapp (wife of Laurie Knapp's nephew); Paul Kidney (son-in-law of Charles & Jackie McNeill); Ruby Pennington (friend of Laurie Knapp); Sara Krisnow (niece of Marty Johnson); Rick Baldwin (nephew of Tommy Johnson); Judy Bauer (cousin of Marty Johnson); Iris Turlington (aunt of John Zeigler); Betty Jean Newton (sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); ; Tonya Spires (friend of the Derricks); Vivian Almendinger (great-niece of Christopher McCroskey); J. B. & Stephanie Martindale (cousins of Christopher McCroskey); Linda Hargett (stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); Ollie Shelly (friend of the Derricks); Brenlee Carnes; Danielle Spotts (co-worker of Kathy White); Vickie Edwards (neighbor of Kathy White); George Duke, Vicki Beatty, Connie Mason, Brenda Grier (friends of Lynn Martin); Heather Stevens, Diane Kelsey, Erma Ruff, David Price & Family, Mark Leonhart, Ty Moore, George Dorn (friends of Kay Jordan); Teddy Derrick (uncle of Arvan Derrick); Haidee Baehr (friends of Ruth Frady); Dianne Schmotzer (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); Dan Connor, Denise Paul (cousin of Gale Frady); Billy Johnson. Max Johnson (friends of Gale Frady); Ray Culbreth's Group House; Nellie Gantt (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); Amelia Zinski (great-niece of Linda Maloch); Wayne Blair (son of Dot Johnson); Xavier Crane (grandnephew of John Ballentine); Janet Beck (friend of Jo Ann Heiting); Vera Von Glahn (sister-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); Michael Carter (son of Esther Carter); Adam Lavender (son of Phil Lavender)*

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

### OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 03/28 Worship: 27

### OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 03/28 \$ 7,275.00

### OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”



|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ministers               | The Congregation        |
| Pastor                  | John D. Jordan          |
| Resident Bishop         | Jonathan Holston        |
| District Superintendent | Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson |

---

***Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

***Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform***



*Easter Sunday*

1201 Mohawk Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29169  
Telephone: 803.794.7777

E-mail: [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com)

Website: [www.trinityumcwc.org](http://www.trinityumcwc.org)

Many of my colleagues have likened the past 14 months to Lent, a time of grief and mourning. But I beg to differ with them. While Lent is a time of grief and mourning, as we mourn our sinful state it is also a time of preparation. We mourn, but we mourn with the hope of Easter. So, I do not liken this past 14 months to Lent, I liken it to the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

That Saturday was a day of complete darkness. Jesus had been crucified. Jesus was dead. Jesus was laid in the tomb. Darkness ruled. All hopes and plans of Jesus' followers were dashed, plunged into the darkness of Jesus' death.

We were plunged into darkness as this virus spread throughout our country and the world. We were plunged into darkness as we watched the death toll mount to well over half a million in the U.S. and over 2.8 million worldwide.

Many of our plans were dashed. There were no proms or graduation ceremonies. Vacations were put on hold. The excitement of our Lady Gamecocks contending for another national title came to a screeching halt. There were no movies, plays, concerts, or even getting a bite to eat at our favorite restaurant. We couldn't even gather safely in church to worship God. Our lives were plunged into darkness by this virus.

But that wasn't enough. The darkness continued to fall as the deaths of Brianna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaund Aubery and others exposed the continuing scourge of racism in this country. This scourge was further exposed by attacks on Asian-Americans as they were falsely blamed for the virus.

The darkness grew even deeper by the divisive political climate that permeated our election process and culminated with the attack on our capital on January 6.

Even in the past few weeks we have been plunged further into darkness as there has been a spate of shootings spurred on by who knows what. Yes, this has been 14 months of darkness. It has been a 14 month long Saturday.

Mary comes to the tomb while it is still dark, the sun has not risen. The darkness of Saturday still envelops her. She comes to the tomb, to the source of the darkness, a dead Jesus laying in the tomb.

But wait! Something is amiss. The stone, that was rolled in front of the tomb, has been removed! She runs to Simon Peter and the other disciple and tells them what she assumes, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid him." To her, it has gotten even darker for not only have they killed Jesus, now they have hidden the body from them.

Peter and the other disciple run to the tomb. They look in the tomb and see the linen wrappings and the folded head cloth. They see this and believe, then return home.

But Mary stays, weeping. She looks in the tomb and there she sees two angels. The angels ask, "Why are you weeping?"

She may have thought “Why am I weeping? The darkest day of my life has just gotten darker. Not only did they kill my Lord but now I don’t know where he has been laid. I don’t know where to find him.”

That has been the way it has seemed to be these past 14 months, one dark moment right after another. Just when we think it can’t get any darker, something else comes along plunging us into further darkness.

Mary turns around and sees a man who asks not only why she is weeping but also “Whom are you looking for?” The answer, of course, is Jesus, who is the man standing in front of her. But she does not recognize him, perhaps because she is still enveloped in her darkness. All she asks is to know where he has been laid so she can take him away.

Jesus calls her name, “Mary.”

Hearing Jesus speak her name breaks through the darkness! She does not find the body she is looking for. She sees the resurrected, living Jesus! Jesus breaks through the darkness Mary is in and the light of the resurrection bursts forth and she can see him! In the darkest dark of Mary’s life, the living Jesus comes to her, breaking through the darkness and giving light, Easter light!

Even in the darkness of the past 14 months, this Easter light still breaks forth. Last Easter we could not worship in person but now we can, albeit with some restrictions like masks and social distancing. Last Easter the service was posted some time later on Facebook, looking like a Ben Laden video from some cave in Afghanistan, while this Easter we are streaming live with much better sound and video. We may not know exactly how many people we have impacted online but I have seen at least 14 new likes on our Facebook page that are not members of Trinity. If you are one of them, we thank you for worshipping with us.

Last Easter there seemed to be no end to this pandemic, but now we have vaccines that are effective in preventing or reducing the severity of this disease. As we all are vaccinated and continue to maintain safe practices such as mask wearing and social distancing, we can beat this virus. The light of Easter has shone through the scientists and doctors who developed these vaccines and guided us on safe practices.

Even in the midst of the pandemic, at the darkest moments, the Easter light shone through the health care workers and hospital workers who risked their health and lives to treat the sickest of the sick.

Easter light shines through even the darkest moments in our lives. Even when we are at the darkest of the dark times, Jesus appears to us just like he did Mary. Jesus calls out our name, letting us know that we are not alone in our darkness for he is with us and God’s light, Easter light, will overcome the darkness.

God’s light, the light of the Easter resurrection, will always overcome the darkness. Bishop Kenneth Carder, one of my professors at Lutheran, said that God always gets the last “at bat”, no matter how dark life may seem. No matter how much it seems that the forces of evil and darkness have won, even as they crucified God’s Son, God still gets the last “at bat”. And God won by resurrecting Jesus. Easter is God getting the last “at bat” and overcoming all darkness.

Jesus did not just reveal himself to Mary. After revealing himself to Mary he gives her instructions. Go and tell the disciples that he is alive and he is ascending to the Father. Mary goes and announces to the disciples that she has seen the Lord! She has seen the risen Lord. He is not dead. All that he had told them before is true. He is the light of the world, the light of life that overcomes all darkness and they who follow him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life!

Jesus does not just reveal the light of the world to us. We are also told to go and tell. We are to go into the darkness of the world and tell the world, "There is Light! There is Hope!"

The light that overcomes all darkness was revealed on Easter. We who are followers of Jesus walk in the light and never walk in darkness. We are to share this light. We are to let the world know that the darkness will not win. We are to let the world know that God is shining light into the world, the light that overcomes all darkness. The light of hope is the risen Lord, the light of Easter, the light that overcomes all darkness.

We are to share the light so all the darkness in the world will be overcome by the light. Go, share the light.