

**CADILLAC SOUTH UMC
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025**

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ENTER INTO GOD'S DIVINE PRESENCE

***CALL TO WORSHIP (congregation in bold)**

We are people of the twenty-first century, far removed from the Upper Room.

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

We have put away the festive trumpets, the fancy clothes, the chocolate bunnies of Easter Sunday. Must the message of Easter be put away for another year?

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

We still seek the One who offers victory over death, whose love conquers evil.

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

We gather to worship the risen Christ who offers us new life.

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

***OPENING HYMN - “Easter People, Raise Your Voices” UMH 304**

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on, illuminating the places where you are present. As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace. You showed them the appalling marks of evil pierced on your hands and feet. You opened their minds to understand why you had to die to defeat such evil and death. Increase our understanding and open our minds and hearts to receive you, Lord. Speak your word of peace to us and let your love shine on any dark areas in our lives. May this worship which we offer in your name be a worthy response to your love and your sacrifice for us. Amen.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of empty tombs and emptier people, when we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us and give us a voice. When we find it difficult to love one another, forgive us and give us fresh compassion. When we want to stand with the high and mighty, forgive us and seat us next to the poor and oppressed. When we stay locked behind our fears and

doubts, forgive us and send us out to share your grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, forgive us and fill us with your joy. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (congregation in bold)

Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter. Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults and gifts us with grace and hope.

Christ comes to fill us with peace so we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness for all. Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE READING – John 20:19-31

SERMON – “Finding God in the Questions”

WE RESPOND IN JOYFUL SERVICE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE – “Thine Be the Glory” UMH 308**

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Generous and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world

through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God,

knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – “I Believe”**

In spite of many unanswered questions, I believe.

I believe in the living God, the joy of the universe, who is the pulse and purpose of all things seen and unseen, who from the dust of earth calls up living beings to be children of eternity, who through countless ages has provided for us many liberators and tirelessly seeks to bring victory out of defeat and life out of decay.

I believe in Jesus the Christ, God's true Son, who is

bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, who took upon himself the healing of the human race, who bearing the burden of our sins went to Golgotha carrying his cross, who was betrayed, crucified, dead and buried in a borrowed tomb, who on the third day was found to be gloriously alive, meeting with those who trust him and serve him to the end of the world.

I believe in the Holy Spirit of God, within and among all who cherish Christ and his way, who brings hope out of despair, love out of apathy, and joy out of sorrow, who unceasingly regenerates and reforms the church that it may always be the contemporary body of the risen Christ, loving the world through prayer, word, and deed.

I believe that even I am caught up in the resurgent life of Christ Jesus, and that nothing in life or death can separate me from his love and joy.

In spite of unanswered questions, yes, I believe. Amen!

***CLOSING HYMN – “Because He Lives” UMH 364**

***BENEDICTION**

*** “SENT FORTH BY GOD’S BLESSING” UMH 664**

***POSTLUDE**

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Office Hours (in Cadillac): Monday-Thursday, 9:30am - 1:00 pm.

Sabbath Day: Friday