



*After three days,
he will rise up.*

MARK 10:34 (CEB)

Rejoice
in the
RESURRECTION!

MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 5, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Easter Sunday | Holy Communion

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor | Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE "In Death's Strong Grasp the Savior Lay" J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, Christ is risen! God is doing a new thing!

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Life has conquered death! Love has overcome fear!

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

God has transformed a dead end into a new start!

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Easter people, raise your voices! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

*PRAYER OF CENTERING

Almighty God, the earth is shaken and nothing is the same. Defeat is turned to victory; death is overcome by life; the stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Meet us here, O God, amid events beyond our own understanding. You appear to us from afar, yet touch us where we are. Your love spans time and space, yet wraps itself around us here and now. Faithful God, we come seeking the things that are above, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN & FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

UMH 302++

(During the singing of the hymn you are invited to come forward to place a flower on the cross)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM "Thine Is the Glory" Arr. Susan E. Geschke

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 28:1-10 NT p. 33-4

***HYMN OF PREPARATION** "In the Garden" UMH 314++

SERMON "A New Start"

CHOIR ANTHEM "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" John Purifoy

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94++

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of New Beginnings, you roll away despair and doubt, fear and failure. On this Resurrection morning, we offer our gifts in gratitude for the new life we have found in Christ. Let these offerings be signs of our commitment to live differently -- eyes open, hearts awakened, hands ready to serve. May what we give today help announce to the world that hope is alive, love has triumphed, and joy cannot be contained, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

* CONGREGATION STANDS AS COMFORTABLE CONGREGATION RESPONSE IN **BOLD**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH 15-16

LORD'S PRAYER

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP *(Everyone is invited to come to the rail to receive the bread and cup)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Thine Be the Glory"

UMH 308++

***BENEDICTION**

For all that has been...*Thanks!*

For all that will be...*Yes!*

***SENDING FORTH**

***POSTLUDE**

GREETER | Leadership Team

LITURGIST | Jackie Pentecharsky

FLOWERS | *see insert*

FELLOWSHIP HOUR | Darlene Mechelke

Christ is Risen!

Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament

UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal TFWS: The Faith We Sing

++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn



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