

## Liturgy for Easter Season Worship 2021

Welcome to Worship

Rev Phil Hart  
Transitional Conference Minister

Prelude

Samuel Ringgold - piano

Chopin - Prelude in E minor Op.28 No.4 - public domain

Call to Worship

Rev Calandra Nevenzel  
Southwest Association Minister

Leader: Christ is risen!

**Congregation: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: We come in this season seeking new hope, new life, your fresh breath in our lungs;

**Congregation: We come to renew our hearts, and place our hope anew in you O Creator!**

Leader: We come not expecting everything to be perfect or fixed right away,

**Congregation: But we come ready to work; ready to share your vision for the world;  
ready to be your hands and feet in our community!**

**All: Let us worship God together in spirit and in truth!**

Opening Body Prayer Experience

Rev Jody Betten  
United Northern Association Minister

Message for All Ages

“Easter Eggs”

Jenn Ringgold  
Program Associate for Youth Ministries

Opening Hymn

New Century Hymnal #252

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Samuel Ringgold - alto saxophone

Scripture Isaiah 25:6-9

Rev Dr Constance Simon  
Detroit Metro Association Minister

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of rich food,

a feast of well-aged wines,

of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

7 And God will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

8 God will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of the people God will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for God, so that God might save us.  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in salvation.

Scripture I Corinthians 15:1-11

Lisa Soulliere  
Executive Administrative Assistant

15 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Sermon Message  
“Perspective”

Rev Cheryl Burke  
Associate Conference Minister

Offering  
One Great Hour of Sharing and Strengthen the Church

Our Church's Wider Mission

Prayers of the People

Rev Ruth Fitzgerald  
Grandwest Association Minister

God of new life, of joy, of resurrection hope; hear our prayers today.

We long to be resurrection people, to embody the presence of the Risen Christ, to spread the good news among the world.

But we confess that we look backward. We are comfortable to listen to the accounts of the first Easter and rest in the history and tradition we know. We adopt our familiar patterns of celebration—the music and scriptures and flowers and foods—that evoke memories of our past.

Awaken in us the images of that first Easter morning as the women returned to the tomb resolved to perform the work of closure after a death. Their eyes were turned to the tasks ahead, they were moving away from the events of the day before. Leaving the tomb, they carried the mysterious news to the disciples as the sun rose again.

Help us to remember that these ancestors in faith were wrapped in confusion and even disbelief. They were experiencing something no one had ever felt before. But, they found comfort with their friends, they grieved, and they opened themselves to new possibilities.

Join us now as we draw away from Easter morning, leaving the mystery of resurrection day again in our past.

Walk with us and move our steps into a future that might today seem as tenuous as the days following Jesus' resurrection. Our own days full of questions; days now holding a tension of pandemic and recovery; vaccines and variants; the promise of new life and the tired routine of days at home.

We pray that we will be profoundly changed, welcomed by friends, accompanied in our grieving, and moved to new life as our ancestors were so many years ago.

Restore a new vision in us. One that sees beyond the things we have lost and finds hope and joy in the promises of God.

We pray today for those we hold dear. Our children and parents; neighbors, and friends. Hear the prayers of our hearts, the ones too precious and personal to speak out loud.

We pray today for the people of this world; those whom we do not know; the ones who need a new horizon of hope. The ones who are hungry, jobless, homeless, afraid, alone, mourning and dying.

Hear our prayers on behalf of all those who lead us in these days. Our pastors. Our government officials. Teachers and administrators. Parents. May they be hopeful in their vision, compassionate in their leadership, transformed in love.

Let the news of the resurrection propel us into our future as God's people. Facing into the history that lies ahead of us, joining generations of faithful people looking ahead with hope and assurance; God's presence our strength.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ who brings new life, new awakening, and new possibilities in power and love. And join our voices in the Lord's Prayer from the New Zealand Book of Prayer:

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

- The New Zealand Book of Prayer

Closing Hymn  
New Century Hymnal #249  
Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

Samuel Ringgold - piano

Benediction

Rev Phil Hart  
Transitional Conference Minister

Postlude  
Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Samuel Ringgold - alto saxophone

## Worship Resources

### Conference Staff

Rev. Jody Betten - United Northern Association Designated Minister

Rev. Cheryl Burke - Associate Conference Minister

Rev. Ruth Fitzgerald - Grand West Area Minister

Rev. Phil Hart - Transitional Conference Minister

Rev. Calandra Nevenzel - Southwest Area Minister

Jenn Ringgold - Program Associate for Youth Ministries

Rev. Dr. Constance Simon - Detroit Metro Area Minister

Lisa Soulliere - Executive Administrative Assistant

Merrilyn Vaughn-Hoffman - Search & Call Coordinator\*

\*not featured in worship

### Music - One License and Public Domain

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us - New Century Hymnal #252 Bradbury

Peace I Leave with You My Friend - New Century Hymnal #249 Repp

Prelude in E minor Op.28 No.4 - Chopin, public domain

Sam Ringgold - Alto Saxophone and Piano

### Additional Sources

Lord's Prayer from The New Zealand Book of Prayer

The Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version

Other prayers and liturgy written by staff who spoke them

One Great Hour of Sharing Resources from United Church of Christ