

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of new life, by giving us the bread of life and the cup of salvation, you nourish us with grace.

Thank you for calling us by name and for walking with us in the world. Empower us by your Spirit to go forth as your Easter people, bearing the fruit of your resurrection hope, peace, and love. Amen.

*HYMN *Crown Him with Many Crowns* UMH 327

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE *"Toccata" from Symphony No. 5, Op. 42* Charles-Marie Widor

Those participating in the service:

Chancel Choir; Brett Miller – organ/piano; Tyler Perske and Timothy DeWitt – trumpets; Robert Palmer – horn; B.J. Hoffman – bass trombone; Benjamin Hughes – percussion; Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey – liturgist.

He is Risen

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: Genesis 1:1-5

Monday: Romans 3:21-26

Tuesday: Psalm 104:24-31

Wednesday: Colossians 3:1-11

Thursday: John 6:1-15

Friday: Isaiah 55:1-11

Saturday: Psalm 37:3-11

Breath Prayer this Week:

Dear God, help us to trust in you even when life seems uncertain.

Help us to use unexpected opportunities for your glory Amen.

BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

251 WORTHINGTON DRIVE, BRIDGEPORT, WV

APRIL 20, 2025 † 8:30 AM † 10:45 AM

He Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

EASTER SUNDAY

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE VISION OF "MATTHEW 25"

We are a community of faith focused on being in ministry with and for the least, the last, the lonely, and the left out. Jesus said, "When you do it to the least of these, you do it unto me." (Matthew 25:40) This is our primary work. Please join us as we strengthen ourselves for the task in worship, prayer, and study and then go forth to serve in Matthew 25 Ministries.

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDES *Selections from Partita on "This Joyful Eastertide" (VRUECHTEN)* Paul Bouman

Chorale Prelude on "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (MILES LANE) Alec Rowley

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT *Introit for Easter* Joel Raney

This is the day of celebration, this is the day of goodness and light!
Earth and sky and all creation celebrate the wonder of life! Alleluia!
Christ is risen, sing hosanna, lift your voices to the sky.
Christ is risen, alleluia! He is risen, he lives on high!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader: Early in the morning, while it was still dark, the stone was rolled away.

ALL: The tomb is empty! The garden is blooming with new life!

Reader: In the beginning, God walked with humanity in a garden – and today, Christ walks again, risen and victorious!

ALL: Jesus is alive! He calls us by name!

Reader: This is the day of resurrection, the first day of the new creation! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Let us worship our Risen Lord with wonder and praise!

INVOCATION

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.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

An Easter Celebration

Craig Courtney

The congregation will be invited to stand and join the choir in singing.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

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| <p>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!</p> <p>2. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once he all doth save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!</p> | <p>3. 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!</p> <p>4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
Praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!</p> |
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*HYMN OF WORSHIP

Up from the Grave He Arose

UMH 322

MINISTRY STEWARDSHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES

- ~ Please fill out a prayer card if desired and place it in an offering basket.
- ~ Use the e-giving tab on the website, mail in your donation, or place it in the baskets at the entryways.
- ~ Please visit our website, bridgeportumc.org to check for regular updates.
(10:45 Children K-2nd Grade only may leave for Children's Church.
Please meet with your leader in the back of the Sanctuary.
Younger children see back of bulletin for locations of nurseries.)

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:1-18

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Gardener

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

In Christ Alone

W & S 3105

<p>In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song. This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.</p> <p>In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save. 'Til on the cross as Jesus died the love of God was magnified, for ev'ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.</p>	<p>There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain. Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again. And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me. For I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.</p> <p>No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me. From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme or plan can ever pluck me from his hand. 'Til he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!</p>
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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

UMH 881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And 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, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
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. Amen.**

** "universal"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Let us come to confess our sins before the Lord in honesty and hope. Let us pray:

ALL: O God, we confess that too often we cling to the shadows of the first garden – grasping for control, hiding in shame, resisting your Spirit, and choosing fear over trust and self over love. Forgive us, O Gardener of grace. Cultivate in us hearts that are open, spirits that are willing, and lives that bear the fruit of resurrection.

Silent prayer

Reader: Hear the Good News! In the garden of grace, shame is scattered, mercy blooms, and new life abounds. You are forgiven, for Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

May the Risen Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts, people of God.

We lift them to the Lord, the Giver of new life!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

We offer our thanks and praise on this day of resurrection.

How good it is on this day of joy to lift our glad songs of praise to you, Living God. ...Therefore, on this day and every day, with those in heaven and those on earth, we lift our glad song of praise to you:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
all creation is blessed with new life on this day. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes bringing your resurrection power.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. ...

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, but death does not have the final word;
Christ is risen, and we have risen to new life with him;
Christ will come again and lead us into God's glory.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. ...

Through Christ and with the Holy Spirit, glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving are yours, God of new life, on this day of new creation and in all the days to come. **Amen.**