



Worship Guide for Easter Sunday

Aldersgate United Methodist Church - Butte, MT

Our Morning Prayer

- from Chuck Kestle -

Precious Lord, Our Savior, Our Redeemer -

Easter has come to us in such a strange way this year. Our church home has been closed. Our yearning for fellowship has been stifled. Our desire for worship and communion has been stayed by a presence that has changed our lives, confined us to our homes, confronted us with an onslaught of daily statistical numerations of global tragedy that are overwhelming, unbelievable and unimaginable.

Our faith has been tested these past weeks Lord, sorely tested. We have been met by an existential crisis to which the only responses seem to be distancing and isolation. Our hearts cry out. We wonder. We worry. We ask why?

Yet,
The tomb is still empty.
Our hope is still present.
Your grace still abounds.

We know that there will be a better day. We know that you will work all things for the good. We know that the springtime of resurrection will confront and overcome all things. We know there is life and that life is still here now and evermore.

In the name of your Son and the Spirit he has given us - Amen.



Sharing the Peace of Christ

(Ps 118, John 20)

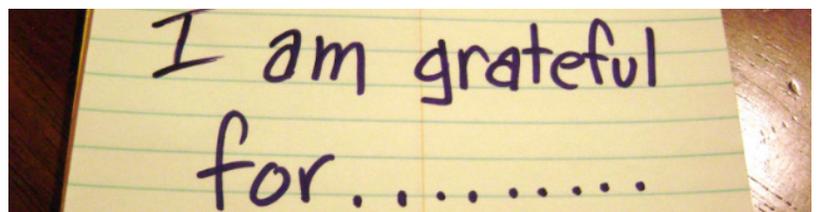
With joy beyond measure in the face of cruelty and death, let us share the triumph of love over hate as we share signs of Christ's peace this blessed day. Peace be with you... and also with you! Amen.

Share a sign of peace this day...call a friend, write a card of greeting to another, bake something to share with one who may be hungry, light a candle of thanks!

Sharing Joys and Concerns

We come today with celebrations and burdens, all of which we life up to you, Oh God. We ask that you hold our intentions in your secure embrace and bless those in need of your healing power. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

Take a moment to speak the names of those you lift up today. Close your eyes and picture their face...hear their voice! Spend some time holding them close by sharing a photo of them with another. Make a list of all you're grateful for this day!





Our Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1-10 New Living Translation (NLT)

1 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3 His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

5 Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”

8 The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. 9 And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”

An Offering

Lord, we offer to you this day, token of our lives and our substance. Take these lives and these gifts and cause them to work in this world which you have loaned us, for the healing and reconciliation of all people to you. Amen.

Your continued financial support of our mission and ministry is both needed and appreciated during this time. We invite you to make a donation to Aldersgate UMC - 1621 Thornton Ave. Butte, MT 59701.

Additionally, we invite you to identify a local group to give an Easter gift to this week. Many organizations are working to meet the challenge of serving those in need in Butte during this time of limited contact and income.

As always, your prayers are a gift. May we shoulder the burdens of this time together with God’s grace.

Benediction

From darkness and despair, we find hope and joy.
Christ is risen! We go forth in joy!

From doubt and betrayal, we find trust and faith.
Christ is risen! We go forth in faith!

From suffering and death, we find healing and life.
Christ is risen! We go forth to live!

Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
Alleluia.

