

*THE GOSPEL STORY

John 20: 1-18

SERMON

“The Garden”

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF PRAISE

The women came running to tell us.
Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
Out of darkness, light has come.
Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
The tomb is empty, our hearts are full.
Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
Our mourning has turned to dancing.
Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
Our tears have been turned to laughter.
Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
The stone moved away from the door of the tomb.
Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
Captives at liberty, prisoners set free.
Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
Death clothes cast aside to bind up broken hearts.
Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
The lowly are lifted, the mighty brought down.
Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.
Today the promise of God is fulfilled in our hearing.
Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.

Hymn No. 2115 in *The Faith We Sing* “Christ Has Risen”

Sending Forth

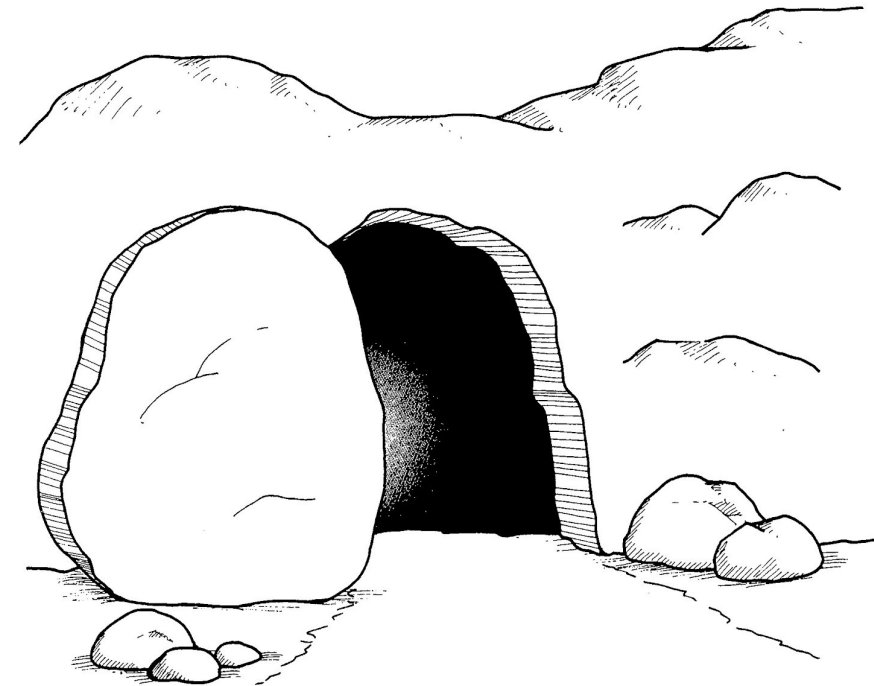
Holy Manna

First United Methodist Church

117 Third Street, Cheraw, SC 29520

www.cherawfirstumc.org

The Mission of the First United Methodist Church is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.



EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP
March 27, 2016 6:30 a.m.
First United Methodist Church, Cheraw, SC

GREETING

Friends, on this holy morning in which Christ passed over from death to life, we gather as the Church to experience Christ's death and resurrection anew. Let us be reminded now of the cross of Christ.

EASTER LITANY

We thought you were dead. We thought the cross was the end. We thought that when the stone rolled over the tomb, that was it.

But this is it:

the dead are living; the cross is empty; the stone is rolled, and one word describes it all:

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

We thought you had said your final word. We thought those with the power had won. We thought that when you cried out, that was it.

But this is it:

**the word breathes;
the powers are defeated;
the final cry was only the beginning,
and one word says it all:
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!**

We thought the story was finished. We thought the hope had ended. We thought that when the tomb was sealed, that was it.

But this is it:

**the story has just begun;
the hope is newly born;
the tomb is empty,
and one word says it all:
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!**

This is the news:
Jesus is risen!

This is the moment
Jesus is alive!
This is the gospel
Jesus is with us!

We thought that when they crucified you, death had defeated life, and that was it.

But this is it:

**Love is stronger than death,
and one word says it all:
Alleluia!
Jesus is risen!**

THE PASCHAL CANDLE IS LIT

PROCESSIONAL TO THE SANCTURAY WHILE SINGING

“Alleluia”

Verse 1: Alleluia, Alleluia...

Verse 2: He is risen, Alleluia...

Verse 3: I will praise him, I will praise him....

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
Echoing the mighty song of all God's people!
The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is indeed right, that with open hearts, clear minds, and exuberant voices we should praise you, unseen God, creator of all that is, and your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has ransomed us by his death, and has risen triumphant from the grave. Therefore, in the joy of this blessed morning, when sin is washed away and mourning is turned to joy, accept our sacrifice of praise. Grant that this Easter candle makes our darkness light, for Christ the morning star has risen, never again to set, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

People: Amen.