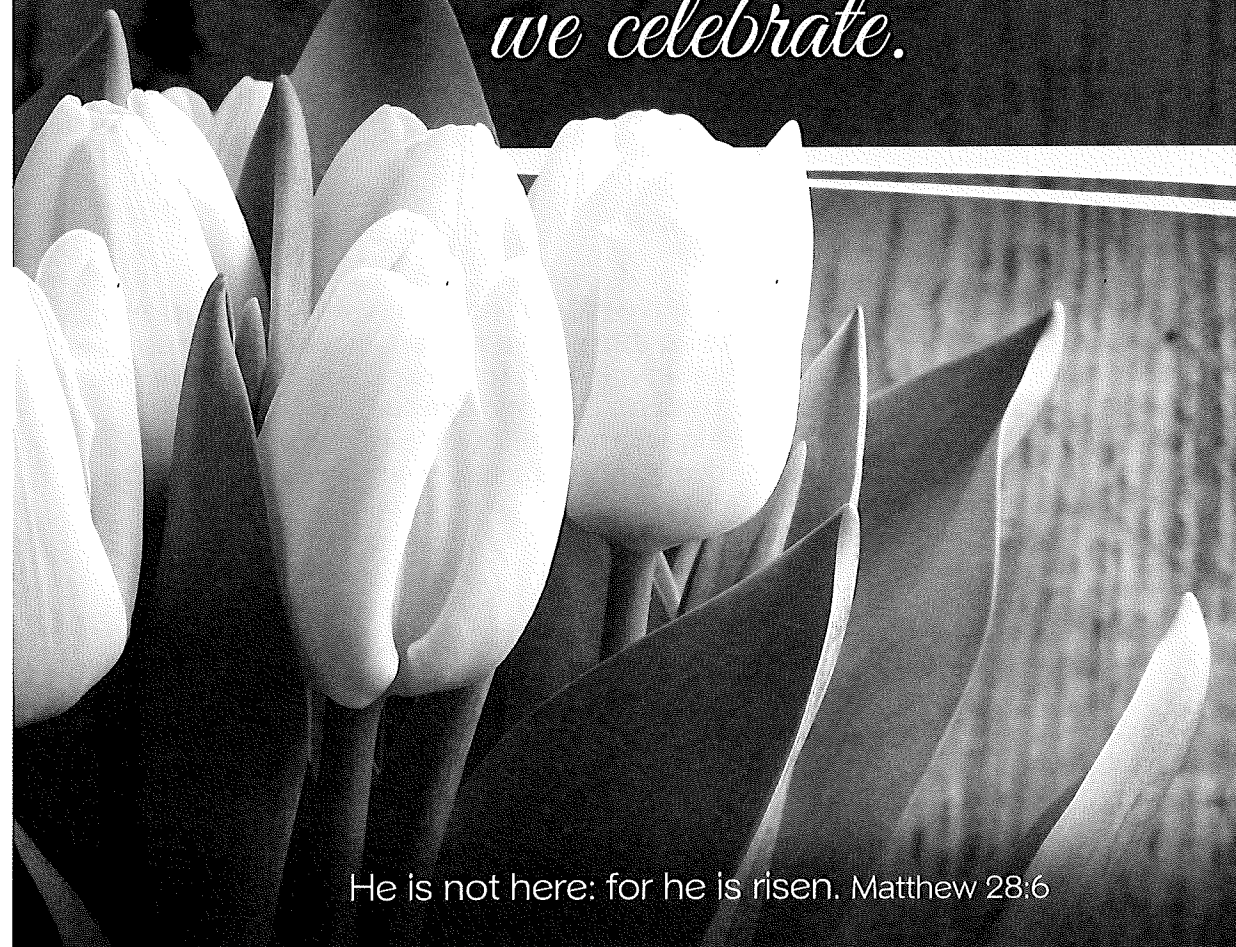


# Easter...

What a miracle,  
what a moment, what a Savior—

*For love like this,  
we celebrate.*



He is not here: for he is risen. Matthew 28:6

Written by Linda E. Knight

Thank you to David Hapner and Dawn White for leading us in song  
Today's liturgy is provided by Rev. Roger Gench of The Presbyterian Outlook

Please visit these links as we continue to be the Body of Christ in new ways:

[www.northminsterspringfield.org](http://www.northminsterspringfield.org)

[www.facebook.com/northminsterpresbyterianspringfieldohio](https://www.facebook.com/northminsterpresbyterianspringfieldohio)

# Northminster Presbyterian Church

April 4, 2021

*Welcomes You to Worship*  
Resurrection of the Lord/Easter  
Ministers: Everyone in the Congregation  
The Reverend Dwight McCormick II, Pastor

10:00 a.m.

**Prelude** "Praeludium in C" JS BACH

**Welcome and Opening Prayer** Rev. Dwight McCormick

**\*Call to Worship** Diana Harrison

Leader: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

**People: Alleluia! Christ is Risen Indeed!**

Leader: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**People: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Hymn** "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" Glory to God

**Call to Confession** Diana Harrison

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**O God, in raising Christ from dead, you have set us free from self-absorption, doubt, and fear. Yet we continue to live as those who are enslaved to enmity towards others and ourselves. We have been called to love you with all of who we are and to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we are turned in upon ourselves and refuse to love. Empower us with the new life of the risen Christ so that we might be free to love you, others, and ourselves as we ought. Amen.**

*Silence is kept for individual confession of sins*

Leader: Amen

**Assurance of Pardon** Diana Harrison

Leader: Our baptism assures us that, in the risen Christ, enmities based in race, gender and class have been washed away. As Paul tells us, for those who are clothed in Christ, "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female."

**People: Old divisions have been crucified in Christ so that we who are raised with Christ might live in mutuality and peace.**

Joys and Concerns

**Pastoral Prayer and Prayer of Illumination**

**First Reading** Old Testament Lesson 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Leader: Hear now what The Spirit is saying to The Church

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Second Reading** New Testament Lesson Mark 16:1-8

Leader: Hear now what The Spirit is saying to The Church

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** "This Is the Feast of Victory" HILLERT

**Sermon** "Refusing Rescue" Rev. Kathleen Burslem

**Responding to the Word**

**Stewardship Reminder**

One Great Hour of Sharing (envelopes on table outside sanctuary)

Clifton COG Food Pantry (use oatmeal box on the table)

**Affirmation of Faith** (From A Brief Statement of Faith) Rev. Dwight McCormick

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

**Communion** (please refer to the liturgy insert)

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion

Prayer after Communion

**Hymn** "This Joyful Eastertide" Glory to God

**Benediction**

**Closing Chorus** "Go Now in Peace" BESIG

**Postlude** "Festival Postlude" ZIPOLI

(The flowers at the front of the sanctuary are to the Glory of God in celebration of the Resurrection. If you would like one to take home, you may do so. A small donation is asked, but not required, The cost is \$7 each)

**Communion Liturgy**  
**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leader: May Resurrection's God be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: This is the day to offer yourselves to God.

**People: We open our hearts to the One who fills them with grace.**

Leader: Join in the glad songs of all creation this day.

**People: Our voices praise the One who opens wide the gates of life.**

Leader: When only emptiness stretched out, you spoke at that time, Joyous God, and goodness and beauty sprang forth: swallows darting in the skies, young rabbits scampering in the grass, hippos splashing in rivers. All this wonder and joy was your gift to your children created in your image, but we ran to play with death, when sin opened the gates of seduction. Time after time after time, you sent the prophets to remind us of your never-ending love, but we chose to remain in sin's tomb, the stone of our rebellion locking us away. So you sent your Hopeful heart, your grace made flesh so we might not be given over to death. With those who see and believe, with those who stand and question, we lift our Easter songs to you:

**People: Holy, holy, holy are you, God who has made this day!  
All creation celebrates your constant love.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who is revealed on this morning.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Leader: When he could have clung to your glory, God who alone is holy, Jesus chose to become human at that time, so we might be filled with your grace. When we stood against the wall wondering if anyone noticed us, he came to take us by the hand to teach us new dance steps. When our lives crumble around us and we lie scattered on the ground, he gathers us up, reshaping us into your beloved community. When we were unable to break the power of evil over us, he allowed sin to toss him aside like a pebble in a shoe, until he was raised from the tomb because you refuse to give us over to death. As we stand before the empty tomb, celebrating the great news of this day, we would have that faith which is a mystery:

**People: Christ died, so sin could not hold on to us;  
Christ was raised, so death could not hold on to him;  
Christ will come, to hold us in steadfast love and hope.**

Leader: At this time, in every place in which we find ourselves this morning, pour out your Spirit upon your people and on the gifts of the feast of the resurrection. May the bread which is broken open like the tomb, strengthen us so we may go to rebuild shattered hopes, to bind up the hurts of the world. May the cup which is filled with the fruits of your steadfast love, nourish us to leave the shadows of our fears and doubts to stand with the lonely and forgotten, to listen to the cries of the world.