

**“Look Up” Easter Sunday**

**March 31, 2024**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

**Lifting Up Our Hearts**

*O God who was, is, and evermore shall be, to you belong all praise and glory. Angels in heaven announce the dawn of your eternal order; trumpets herald Christ’s victory. The women looked up, and the stone had been rolled away. With our mouths and actions, we proclaim your mercies. We lift our hearts up to you, our Judge and Redeemer. Amen.*

**Gathering Music**

**Gathering Up**

**Music for Centering**

“O Sons and Daughters of the King”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Entering God’s Presence**    “This Joyful Eastertide”    Vernon Hoyle, 2003

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!  
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow!  
Had Christ, that once was slain, never burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain: but now is Christ arisen.

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Run from fear and darkness! Hope is on the move!

**People: Run to tell the world, Christ is risen!**

Leader: Do not be afraid. Jesus has conquered death!

**People: We can proclaim with great confidence that God’s love rules.**

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

**\*Hymn**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

#232

## We Acknowledge What's Up

### \*Call to Confession

Leader: Jesus' rising from the dead ... "You Raise Me Up".

**People: When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary  
When troubles come and my heart burdened be  
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence  
Until You come and sit awhile with me  
You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on Your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be**

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### \*Prayer of Confession

**Ever-living God, we come with our heads bent down sometimes,  
overwhelmed with Good Friday news. Raise us up, lift up our eyes, that  
we might look up and see the tenacity of life in the midst of death.  
Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)**

### \*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In the name of Christ, new life is come! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

### \*Response Hymn

"Glory to God"

#585

Glory to God, glory to God, glo-ry in the high-est! Glory to God,  
glory to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus! Glory to God, glory to God,  
glo - ry to the Spir - it! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!  
Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!

# The Word Uplifts

## **Prayer for Illumination**

## **What's Up? with Children**

## **First Scripture Reading**

Mark 16:1-7

## **Music For Soaring** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” Mark Schweizer, 2014

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
All on earth and angels say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high,  
Sing ye heavens, and earth, reply,  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!  
Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Lives again, our glorious King,  
Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise,  
Angels sing, and earth replies,  
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

## **Second Scripture Reading**

Acts 10:34-43

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

“Look Up”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

## **Building Up**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

An Easter Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father, who created the world, was faithful when we were not, and who continuously seeks to redeem the world.**

**We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, who humbled himself by becoming human and moving into our neighborhood; was sent by the Father to give us life; embodied and taught the righteous love of God;**

and who, though he knew no sin, became sin and was put to death on a cross.

We believe that three days later, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the power of God; was seen in bodily form by his disciples.

We believe that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus gives us victory over any form of sin and brokenness and allows us to know the full love of God for the world.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who actively works in our lives, giving us grace to be like Jesus, and sends us to show God's love for the world.

**\*Hymn**

“Christ Is Alive!”

#246

**“Let My Prayers Rise Up”**

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the  
lifting up of my hands as an of - fering to you.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Text: Psalm 141; Marty Haugen  
Music: *Holden Evening Prayer*, Marty Haugen  
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**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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Uplifting Messages of Support**

**\*Response**

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (refrain)

#240

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Living It Up**

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Because You Live, O Christ”

#249

## \*Blessing for the Journey

Leader: And so now... you can respond,

People: **“With God’s help, I’m up to something good!”**

## \*Congregational Response “We Are the Church”



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## \*Music For Movin’ On Up

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

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**Pastors:** Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood  
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd  
**Organist:** Carol Welk

**Liturgist:** Joyce Lloyd

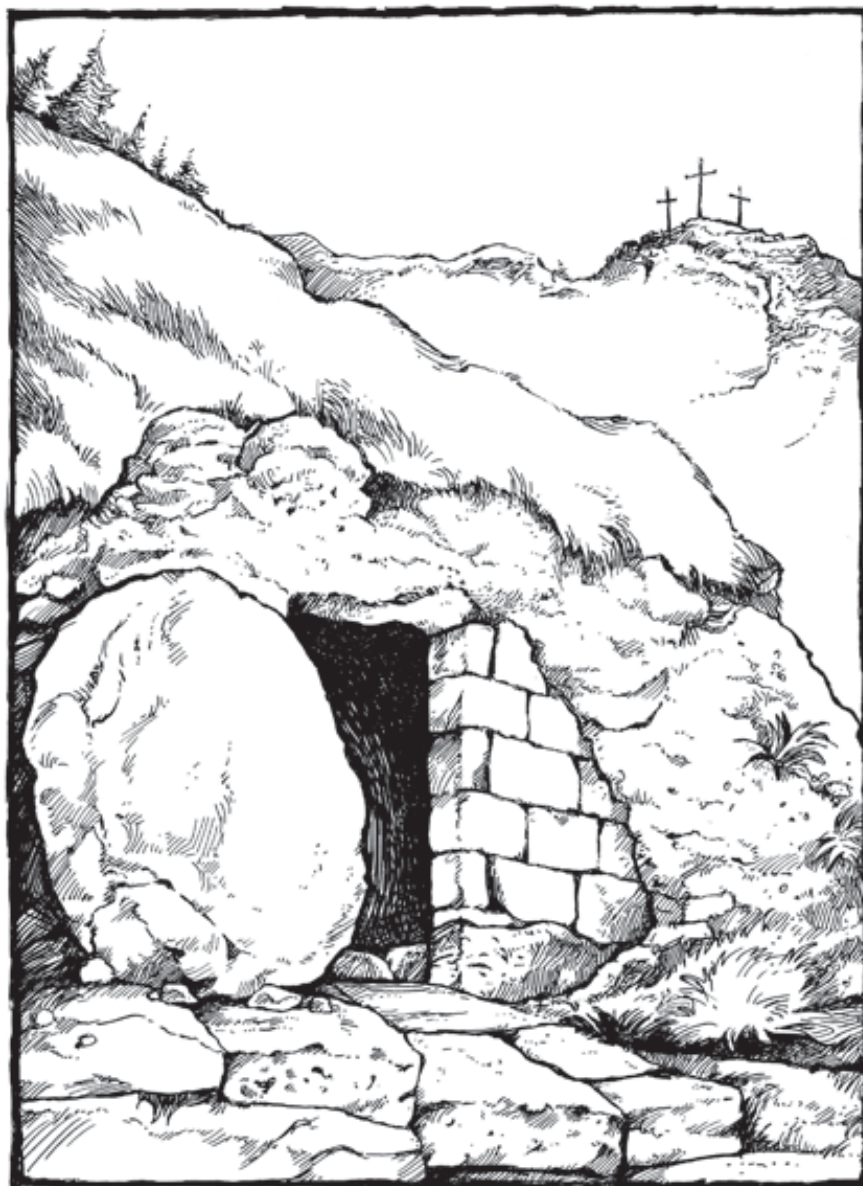
*Joyce Lloyd and her husband, Tom, moved from Pittsburgh, PA, to London, OH, in 1974. They had just graduated from college and were newlyweds. Joyce and Tom were anxious to start their new life together and to start new jobs. London turned out to be a very welcoming town. They were able to find new friends and a new church family.*

*Joyce has a twin sister, an older sister, and an older brother, who live across the US, giving them a chance to visit some beautiful cities. Joyce is fortunate to have her brother-in-law, John, and sister-in-law, Margaret, living nearby.*

*Retirement is the best job Joyce has ever had, allowing her to enjoy more time with Tom, their dog, Sasha, and their cat, Meow Mix. Even in retirement there never seems to be enough time to be involved in as many volunteer projects as she would like. Joyce enjoys her time with friends, and being outside walking the dog or working in the yard. Goal in life: “Make me an instrument of your peace.”*

*The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”*

*Matthew 28:5-6*



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