



West Grove United Methodist Church

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, Lead
Pastor

300 North Guernsey Road
West Grove, PA 19390



Easter

SUNRISE SERVICE

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

7:00 a.m.

March 27, 2016

Easter Greetings

***Opening Hymn** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

***Call to Worship** (Responsive)

One: This is the day the Lord has made!

Many: We will rejoice in it.

One: This is the day God has made; and what a day!

Many: When God wipes away our tears so we can see the empty tomb.

One: What a day! Easter day!

Many: When God opens our hearts' tombs as Jesus calls us by name.

Prayer (Unison)

Risen One, with Mary, help us recognize you this day as we hear your word and feast together. You are "Rabboni," our Teacher, our Guide. Come speak to us, that we might be messengers of your love and doers of your word. Amen.

Hymn "Up From the Grave He Arose"

***Gospel** *John 20:1-18*

Sermon YES! Pastor Monica

Offering

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

On this first day of the week, Emptier of tombs, we must admit that we have not lived faithfully the last few days. It is not that we have done great evil; we simply have failed to do good. It is not so much that we have caused hurt, but we have not brought healing. It is not that we have trouble believing in the event of Easter, we have difficulty speaking about this day to our friends and neighbors. Call us by name, Redeemer of all creation, so we might hear your words of mercy. You do not hand us over to death, but raise us to new life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray.

Words of Assurance

Sacrament of Holy Communion

One: The Lord is risen!

Many: We have seen the Lord!

One: Lift up your hearts, people of God.

Many: We lift them to the Risen Lord.

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

Many: We offer our thanks and praise to the One who gives us new life.

One: How good it is on this day of joy to lift our glad songs of praise to you, Redeemer of the lost. You planted your steadfast love in the gardens of creation, but we ate the bitter fruit of idolatry and sin. Prophets came in your name, bringing your gracious word, but we could not hear them call our name. When we were about to perish, when we could have died, you sent the One who could bear that threat away. Therefore, on this day and every day, with those in heaven and those on earth, we lift our glad cries to you:

Many: 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!

One: Holy are you, God of Easter, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, sent by you to bring us salvation. Your right hand, he releases us from sin's grip; walking through the darkness of death, he leads us into the kingdom's light; confounding the practitioners of evil, he did good for others; humbling himself to experience our pain and suffering, he is raised to rule over all.

It was earlier this week, we remembered that Jesus gathered for the Feast of Pass-over with his friends and disciples, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

As we believe what we may not understand, we trust that mystery we call faith:

Many: Christ has died, but death does not have the final word; Christ is risen, and Easter begins for us when Christ calls us by name. Christ will come again and lead us into God's glory.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon the Bread and the Cup, Resurrecting God, and upon us who seek to be your children. When we are done eating and drinking with the Risen Lord, send us forth to feed the hungry. Served at the Table by the One who freed us from death, we would go out to be servants

of the poor and oppressed in our world. Called to proclaim the good news of Easter, we would do so with our hands and hearts, not just our lips.

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

One: As disciples proclaiming the God news, we pray together the Lord's Prayer

Prayer After Receiving (Unison)

Eternal God of light and life, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world, broken and full of darkness, to share your light! In the name of Jesus the Risen Christ, we pray, Amen.

***Hymn**

"He Lives"

***Benediction**

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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 302

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

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!
2. 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!
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!