

Order of Worship for April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter (White/Gold)
“This is Resurrection”
Pastor Ashlée Vitz

Lectionary: [Exodus 15:1–11](#); [Psalm 111](#); [1 Peter 1:3–9](#); [John 20:19–31](#)

Praise Team Gathering

[“Lifesong”](#)

[“I Will Follow”](#)

[“My Redeemer Lives”](#)

Gathering

Prelude

The United Methodist Church (UMC) follows an order of worship that begins with gathering.

[Psalm 111:1](#)

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart...”

[“Because He Lives”](#)

UMH #364

[“Living Hope”](#)

Lighting of Candles

We begin with music to help us transition from the noise of life into a posture of worship and attentiveness to God. The light reminds us that Christ is present with us and that the Holy Spirit is at work among us.

We visually mark the shift: we are no longer just gathered people — we are a people aware of God’s presence.

[Psalm 111:4](#)

“He has caused his wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.”

[“Here I Am to Worship”](#)

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Ashlée Vitz

We briefly orient ourselves as a community both to support one another and so that nothing distracts us from fully entering into worship.

We handle the practical early so it doesn't compete with the sacred later.

[1 Peter 1:3](#)

"...a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection..."

Call to Worship

We intentionally shift from being an audience to being participants, responding to God who first calls us together.

God always moves first. This is our moment to answer that call—together.

[Psalm 111:2](#)

"Great are the works of the Lord..."

Call and Response:

Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ is risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up: How do we know? What's the proof? Is Resurrection real?

Within our questioning, Christ appears.

We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ's resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

Within our certainty, Christ appears.

Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God's salvific work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and doubt, the resurrected Christ dwells among us! Amen.

Response Song / Chorus

We respond with joy, echoing the truth of God's goodness. Worship is not information—it's response. We move from spoken participation to sung participation.

[Exodus 15:2](#)

"The Lord is my strength... and my salvation."

["He Lives"](#)

UMH #310

Opening Hymn

We sing together early to unify our voices and hearts as one body in praise.

This is where individuals become one body. We are no longer “me and my faith”—we are us and our God.

[Psalm 111:10](#)

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...”

[“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”](#)

UMH #557

Opening Prayer

We name our desire for God’s presence, grounding everything that follows in prayer.

Now that we are gathered and unified, we center everything in God.

[John 20:22](#)

“Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Sharing of Joys and Concerns followed by Pastoral Prayer

“[Quiet Time with God](#)” which includes:

“[Beautiful Savior](#)”

“[What A Beautiful Name](#)“

“[Shout to the Lord](#)“

“[Still](#)“

“[Above All](#)“

“[This Kingdom](#)“

“[Goodness of God](#)“

“[King of Kings](#)“

“[Worthy is the Lamb](#)“

“[Come Though Fount](#)“

“[Give Thanks](#)“

“[God Will Make a Way](#)“

We bring the needs of the community and the world before God, trusting that hope extends beyond us.

Worship is not escape from life—it is where we bring real life into God’s presence.

[Philippians 4:6–7](#)

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Passing of the Peace

We share Christ’s peace with one another because reconciliation with each other is part of worshipping God.

Before we hear the Word, we remember: we do not walk this alone.

[John 20:21](#)

“Peace be with you.”

“[Build Your Kingdom Here](#)”

Proclamation and Response

Now that we are gathered, we move into the 2nd part of our order of worship: proclamation and response. This is when we listen for God’s Word—and respond to it.

Old Testament Reading

[Exodus 15:11](#)

“[The Song of Moses and Miriam](#)”

Response

We respond with praise, lifting our voices together.

Even hearing Scripture invites response—we are already participants, not observers.

[Exodus 15:1](#)

“[Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah](#)”

UMH #127

New Testament Reading

We hear how the early Church lived in hope, connecting their witness to our lives today. We move from Israel’s story to the Church’s story to our story.

[1 Peter 1:3–9](#)

Response Hymn / Song

[“My Hope Is Built”](#)

UMH #368

Gospel Reading

We stand (if able) to honor the life and teachings of Jesus, the center of our faith. Everything builds to this moment—Christ is not one voice among many. He is the center.

[John 20:19–31](#)

Response to the Gospel message

Preacher: Glory to you, O Christ.

Congregation: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Gospel Response Prayer of Confession

We enter the story, encountering Christ in a personal way.

We don't just hear the Gospel—we step into it. And so we respond with a prayer of confession.

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:

The fear that stifles us,

The prejudice that impedes us,

The ignorance that hinders us,

The doubt that plagues us.

Help us, we pray, that we will

Find courage in unlikely places,

Move to those places where love is needed,

And have faith that you are with us.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God! Alleluia! Amen.

Children's Sermon

“Jesus Fills Us Up!”

Pastor Ashlée Vitz

We gather with our youngest disciples to wonder about the good news of God’s love. Because the Gospel is not just for adults, it is for all disciples, at every age.

[“Jesus Loves the Little Children”](#)

Sermon

[“This is Resurrection”](#)

Pastor Ashlée Vitz

This is where Scripture, community, and real life meet.
Not just explanation—but transformation.

Response to the Word

We respond with praise, proclaiming what God has done.

The Word demands a response—we do not leave unchanged.

[Psalm 111:10](#)

[“Because He Lives“](#)

UMH #364

The third part in our order of worship is called sending forth, or simply, sending.

[“Waymaker”](#)

Offering

We give as a response to God’s grace, offering our lives and resources.

After receiving, we give.

This is gratitude in action.

This can be a challenging moment for some people, and that’s understandable.

But let us give you some scriptural Comfort

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

[2 Corinthians 9:7](#)

God only asks for what your heart is moved to give.

Doxology

We dedicate our gifts to God.

We remember: it was never ours to begin with.

And so we sing [The Doxology](#), which is deeply rooted in Scripture.

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

[James 1:17](#) — “Every generous act... is from above”

“Praise Him, all creatures here below”

[Psalm 150](#) — “Let everything that breathes praise the Lord”

“Praise Him above, ye heavenly host”

[Luke 2:13](#) — heavenly hosts praising God

“Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost”

[Matthew 28:19](#) — Trinitarian language

Closing Hymn

We sing as people being sent into the world.

Our final act together is unity in mission.

[“Let Everything That Has Breath Praise the Lord”](#)

[“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”](#)

UMH #302

Benediction We are blessed and sent out to live what we have received.

We don’t just leave—we are sent.

[John 20:21](#)

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

Pastor: May God bless you with open hearts to recognize the resurrected Christ in our midst and with the courage to reach out and touch the wounds of our neighbors, believing that we will find Resurrection in the meeting of our vulnerability.

The music carries us back into the world, reminding us that Christ goes with us.

The service may end—but worship continues in how we live.

Exodus 15:11

“For Good”