

Clinton First United Methodist Church  
Easter Sunday – April 5, 2026  
“This is Resurrection!”  
Pastor Ashlee Vitz

**Scriptures:** [Acts 10:34–43](#); [Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24](#); [Colossians 3:1–4](#); [John 20:1–18](#)

**Gathering**

“[Revelation](#)”  
“[He Lives](#)”

Praise Team  
(UMH 310)

**Prelude**

We begin with music to help us transition from the noise of life into a posture of worship and attentiveness to God.

“Be still, and know that I am God.” — [Psalm 46:10](#)

**Lighting of the Candles**

The light reminds us that Christ is present with us and that the Holy Spirit is at work among us.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn’t overcome it.” — [John 1:5](#)

“[Alive](#)”

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” — [1 Corinthians 14:40](#)

**Call to Worship**

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

**Call**  
[Psalm 118:1–2, 14–2](#) (UMH 839)

“We love, because he first loved us.” — [1 John 4:19](#)

**Response**

We respond with joy, echoing the words of the Psalm: this is the day God has made.

“[This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made](#)” (UMH 657)

“I will give thanks to you, Yahweh, with my whole heart.” — [Psalm 9:1](#)

**Opening Hymn**

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

“[Up from the Grave He Arose](#)” (UMH 322)

“Addressing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.” — [Ephesians 5:19](#)

**Opening Prayer**

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

“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the middle of them.” — [Matthew 18:20](#)

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns Followed by a Pastoral Prayer**

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

“That petitions, prayers, intercessions... be made for all people.” — [1 Timothy 2:1](#)

### **Passing of the Peace**

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

“Be at peace with one another.” — [Mark 9:50](#)

“[Happy Day](#)”

### **Proclamation and Response**

This is the portion of service when we hear and respond to the Word of God!

### **The Old Testament Reading**

We begin with the story of God’s people, remembering that our faith is rooted in a long, living history.

[Jeremiah 31:1–6](#)

“Whatever things were written before were written for our learning.” — [Romans 15:4](#)

### **Response**

We respond with joy, praising God with full hearts and voices.

“[Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee](#)”

(UMH 89)

“Let everything that has breath praise Yahweh!” — [Psalm 150:6](#)

### **New Testament Reading**

We hear how the early Church lived in resurrection hope, connecting their witness to our lives today.

[Colossians 3:1–4](#)

“Devote yourselves to the apostles’ teaching.” — [Acts 2:42](#)

### **Response**

We respond by declaring that resurrection is not just in the past—it shapes how we live now!

“[Because He Lives](#)”

(UMH 364)

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain.” — [1 Corinthians 15:14](#)

### **Gospel Reading**

We stand (if able) to honor the life and resurrection of Jesus, the center of our faith.

[John 20:1–18](#)

### **Response:**

**Pastor Ashlee:** Glory to you, O Christ.

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

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God, and keep it.” — [Luke 11:28](#)

### **Gospel Response**

We enter the story with Mary, encountering the risen Christ who calls us each by name.

“[In the Garden](#)”

(UMH 314)

“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’” — [John 20:16](#)

### **[Children’s Sermon](#)**

Pastor Ashlee

We gather with our youngest disciples to wonder about the good news of Easter—Jesus is alive, and that changes everything!

## Sermon

“This is Resurrection!”

Pastor Ashlee

We reflect on the fullness of Scripture, seeking how resurrection is unfolding in our lives and in this community today.

“Preach the word. Be urgent in season and out of season.” — [2 Timothy 4:2](#)

## **Response to the Word**

We respond with praise, proclaiming what God has done.

“[To God Be the Glory](#)”

(UMH 98)

“Let everything that has breath praise Yahweh!” — [Psalm 150:6](#)

We celebrate the Great Feast that Jesus told us to have in remembrance of Him!  
It is a joyful time of unity and community!

## **The Table- [Holy Communion](#)**

The UMC celebrates an Open Table!

This is Christ’s table, and He invites all to it!

And all means all!

## **Invitation to the Table**

We are invited not because we are perfect, but because Christ meets us in grace.

UMH: Page 6 - ([This will take you through the full communion service.](#))

“Whoever comes to me I will in no way throw out.” — [John 6:37](#)

## **Confession & Pardon**

We confess together because resurrection begins with honesty and is fulfilled in grace.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us.” — [1 John 1:9](#)

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

We give thanks over the bread and cup, remembering God’s saving work and celebrating the risen Christ.

“He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them.” — [Luke 22:19](#)

## **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

We receive the elements as a tangible sign that resurrection is not just a story—it is given to us.

We delight in the joy of communion through music.

“[The Table](#)”

“Because there is one loaf of bread, we, who are many, are one body.” — [1 Corinthians 10:17](#)

## **Prayer After Communion**

We give thanks and ask for strength to live as resurrection people in the world.

“They recognized him in the breaking of the bread.” — [Luke 24:35](#)

## **Sending Forth**

This is how we prepare to leave a space of communal worship and step back into the world.

### **Offering**

We give as a response to God's grace, offering our lives and resources as part of our discipleship.

"Each one should give as he has decided in his heart." — [2 Corinthians 9:7](#)

### **Doxology**

We dedicate our gifts to God, recognizing that everything we have comes from God.

"From him and through him and to him are all things." — [Romans 11:36](#)

### **Closing Hymn**

We sing as people being sent, carrying resurrection into the world.

"[God Be with You Till We Meet Again](#)"

(UMH 672)

"Encourage one another and build each other up." — [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#)

### **Benediction**

We are blessed and sent out to live the resurrection we have received.

"Go in peace." — [Luke 7:50](#)

"[Seasons of Love](#)"

### **Postlude**

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

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." — [Matthew 28:20](#)