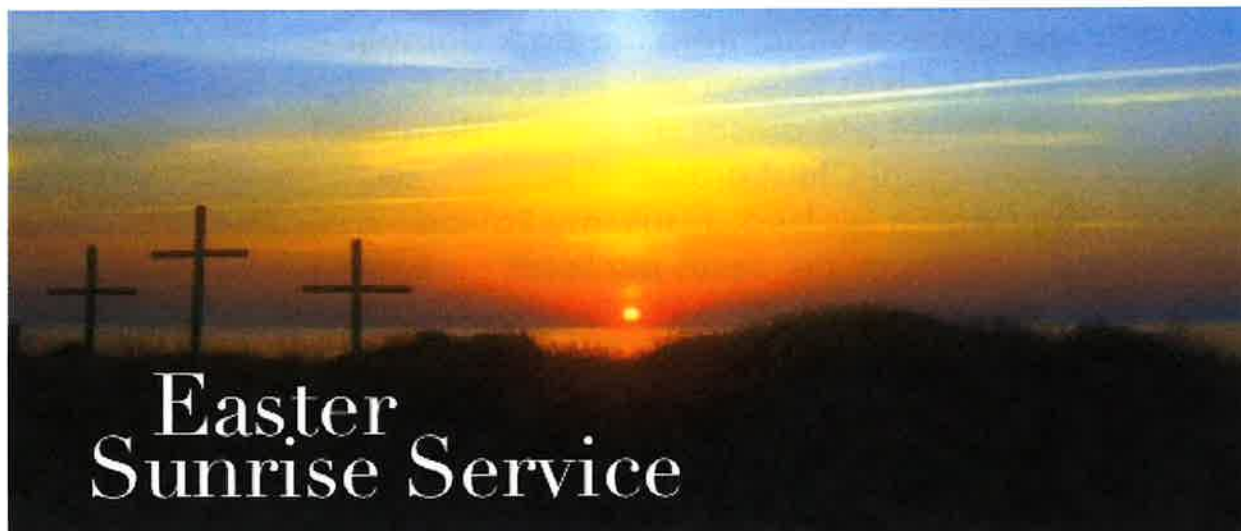


# TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

MARCH 31, 2024, 6:30 AM

*The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor*



The service begins outside in the plaza by the front door. Those who do not wish to be outside can wait in the darkened sanctuary. In case of inclement weather, we will begin in the fellowship hall.

## **-WE GATHER AS GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE -**

### **GREETING**

*Celebrant: Grace to you from Jesus Christ, who was and is, and is to come. Sisters and brothers, our Saviour Jesus Christ has passed from death to life. Through light and the word, in song and in the water, bread, and wine, we recall Christ's death and resurrection, we share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and with invincible hope we await Christ's coming again.*

*Hear the word of God: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all humanity. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

### **SONGS OF EASTER**

## “Up From The Grave He Arose”

1. Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior!  
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain: Up from the grave He arose  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign  
He arose! (He arose) He arose! (He arose)  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2. Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus, my Savior!  
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! Refrain

3. Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus, my Savior!  
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! Refrain

## “Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone”

### -THE SERVICE OF LIGHT-

#### BLESSING OF NEW FIRE

*Celebrant: Let us pray. Eternal God, giver of light and life, bless this new flame, that by its radiance and warmth we may respond to your love and grace, and be set free from all that separates us from you and from each other; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.*

#### LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Celebrant: The light of Christ rises in glory, illumining our hearts and minds.

**People: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.**

#### PROCESSION

During the procession into the sanctuary, we will pause three times and sing:

*Celebrant: Light of Christ!*

**People: Thanks be to God!**

(When the Pascal Candle is in place, the altar candles are then lighted from it.)

#### EASTER PROCLAMATION

#### “EXSULTET – An Ancient Easter Hymn”

Liturgist: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God's throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

**People: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,  
radiant in the brightness of your King!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!**

Liturgist: Rejoice, O servant Church! Exult in glory!  
The risen Savior shines upon you!  
Let this place resound with joy, Echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

*Celebrant: Accept, O God, this Easter candle,  
a flame divided but undimmed,  
a pillar of fire that glows to the honor of Christ the Risen Lord.  
Let it mingle with the lights of heaven  
and continue bravely burning  
to dispel the darkness!*

**People: May the morning Star which never sets  
Find this flame still burning:  
Christ, that Morning Star,  
who came back from the dead,  
and shed his peaceful light on all creation,  
your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**  
*(The Sanctuary Lights can now be turned on)*

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### **GREETING**

*Celebrant: Dear siblings in Christ: let us listen to the word of God, recalling  
God's saving acts throughout history and how, in the fullness of time,  
God's Word became flesh and dwelt among us: Jesus Christ, our  
Redeemer!*

### **FIRST LESSON**

#### **The Creation - Genesis 1:1-27, 31, 2:3**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and

the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

## **\*\*HYMN**

### **Morning Has Broken**

**Vv. 1&2**

**#145**

**1. Morning has broken like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from Heaven,  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.**

## **RESPONSORIAL**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

**People: Almighty God, who wonderfully created, yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature, grant that we may share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity: Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

## **SECOND LESSON**

**Israel's Deliverance**

**Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18**

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.  
The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation;  
this is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.  
The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.  
"Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;  
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.  
The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.  
Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—  
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.  
"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?  
You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them.  
"In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;  
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.  
You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own  
possession,  
the place, O LORD, that you made your abode,  
the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.  
The LORD will reign forever and ever."

**\*\*HYMN**

**Come, Ye Faithful, Raise The Strain Vv. 1&2**

**#315**

**1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness;  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,  
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.**

**2. 'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;  
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying  
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.**

**RESPONSORIAL**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

**People: God our Savior, as once you delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen Israel through the waters of the sea, so now deliver your church and all the peoples of the earth from bondage and oppression to rejoice and serve you in freedom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PSALTER**

**Psalm 98**

**#818**

**R** 🎵 Sing a new song to the Lord, who restores the ends of the earth. 🎵

Liturgist: O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for the Lord has done marvelous things!  
God's right hand and holy arm  
have gotten the victory.

**People: The LORD has declared victory;  
and has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

L: The Lord has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

**P: All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God. R**

L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

**P: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

L: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

**P: With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the Ruler, the LORD! R**

L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell in it!

**P: Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord,  
who comes to judge the earth.**

**The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity. R**

**\*\*GLORIA PATRI**

**#70**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

## **\*\*THE GOSPEL**

**+Matthew 28:1-10+**

Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

## **SONGS OF EASTER**

**"How Deep The Father's Love For Us"**

**"In Christ Alone"**

## **THE SERVICE OF BREAD AND WINE**

### **GREETING**

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us share signs and words of peace with our neighbors.

### **THE LITURGY OF COMMUNION**

(Please find responses in the front of the hymnal, #15.)

*Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.*

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our Creator God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!*

*You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.*

*You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love. You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.*

*You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.*

*You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life and Love.*

*And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

*You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your resurrected Son. You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells, to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.*

*Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him, healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him. He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate, He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death. We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.*



*Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.*

*It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God that we gather this morning and remember together that on the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

*In the same way he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."*

*Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer, we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup, and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ. Accept our praise and thanksgiving, accept our lives as holy offerings to you, that in losing our life we might find true Life and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.*

*And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way, that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place. In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood, we invite your life to fill us and we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world. All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Life.  
The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation

## **RESPONSORIAL PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Celebrant: You have given yourself to us, O Lord.

**People: Now we give ourselves for others.**

Celebrant: You have raised us with Christ, and made us a new people.

**People: As people of the resurrection, we will serve you with joy.**

Celebrant: Your glory has filled our hearts.

**People: Help us to glorify you in all things. Amen.**

**\*\*HYMN****Christ The Lord Is Risen Today****Vv. 1&2****#302**

**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!**

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

Celebrant: Christ is Risen and He goes before us, into this world of fear and pain. He has called us to bring the Good News of healing and hope and redemption. Go in peace, and feel the presence of the Risen Lord with you, now and forever.

**People: We are sent in the power of Christ's resurrection. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE****"Christ Arose!"****Lowery**

## **Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)**

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believed!

[Chorus]

My chains are gone, I've been set free.  
My God, My Saviour has ransomed me.  
And like a flood his mercy reigns.  
Un-ending love, amazing grace

3. The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

[Chorus]

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.  
(Will be forever mine)  
(You are forever mine)

## **How Deep a Father's Love for Us**

Austin Stone Version

1. How deep the father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure  
That he should give his only son,  
to make a wretch his treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss,  
the Father turned his face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen one,  
bring many sons to glor - y

2. Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon his shoulders  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held him there  
until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life;  
I know that it is finished

[Interlude]

**3. It is finished, oh  
I will not boast in anything:  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ;  
his death and resurrection**

**Why should I gain from his reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart:  
his wounds have paid my ransom**

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**But this I know with all my heart:  
his wounds have paid my ransom**

## **In Christ Alone**

**1. In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**2. There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then, bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victo - ry  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

**3. No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my desti - ny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand  
In Christ alone \_\_\_\_\_, Oh \_\_\_\_\_,**