



March 31, 2024



Wilbraham United Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
and the United Methodist Church*

500 Main Street

Wilbraham MA 01095

Phone: (413)596-2511

www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch

March 31, 2024

EASTER

10:00AM

We ask that everyone wear nametags so that we can be welcoming to all. There are listening devices available for those that may need them. An usher will be happy to assist you. Following the service, everyone is invited to our time of refreshments and friendship in our Fellowship Hall. Please make a left out of our sanctuary, down the hall, and up the stairs. If you are unable to use the stairs, an elevator is available.

GATHERING MUSIC

Bells: Processional on "Hallelujah"

M. R. Keller

Organ: Easter Alleluias!

D. Lasky

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #302 (UMH)**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

WELCOME

INTROIT

Bells: Hallelujah

L. Cohen

Arr. Joel Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP

Patti Colkos

Liturgist: Christ has Risen.

People: He has risen indeed!

Liturgist: Rejoice, The risen Savior shines upon you. Let this house resound with joy.

People: Alleluia! Radiant is the brightness of the One who cast away the darkness and gave us the gift of eternal life. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, We praise you, with full hearts and minds and voices, we praise you. Alleluia! You have wonderfully created, and more wonderfully restored. You have shown us love beyond measure and salvation beyond our understanding. Grant that we may be worthy of your great sacrifice and grant that we may be worthy of your great love. Let us share this Easter joy with all whom we meet because we are your Easter people and you are our Almighty God. Alleluia! Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE # 2284 (FWS)**

*There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
For the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,
There'll be joy in the morning on that day.*

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL OFFERING “Alleluia,” Children Sing
Junior Choir

V.E. Copes

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

RESPONSIVE PSALM p. 861-862 (UMH)

Psalm 148

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sung Response # 186 (UMH)

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*

GOSPEL READING

John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON

The Easter Message

Rev. Janet

***HYMN – see insert**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

He Is Risen Now!

J. Purifoy

Chancel Choir

***Doxology #94 (UMH)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts. Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

***PARTING HYMN - #315 (UMH)**

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

***FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ## 665 (UMH)**

Go now in peace, go now in peace,

May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Nocturne for Horn and Piano

F. Strauss

**All who are able to stand, may do so.*

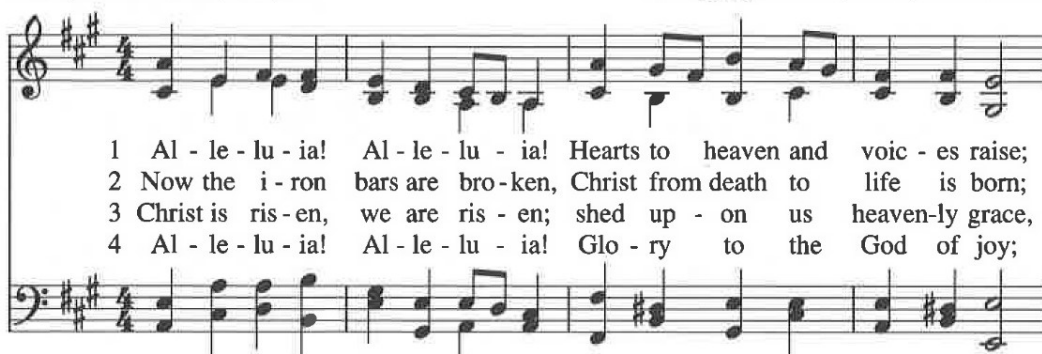
Welcome Visitors! *Is this your first visit to United Church? If you wish to be contacted by a member of the church or our pastor, please leave your contact information with one of the ushers or place a visitor card in the collection plate. We invite you to join us in our time of Fellowship after the service. Our ushers or a member of the ministry team will be happy to accompany you and help you find your way!*

UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal

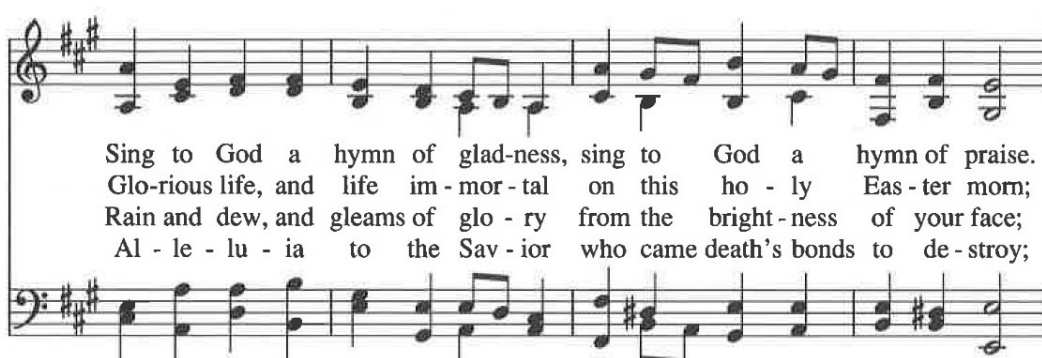
TFWS – The “small black” book Faith We Sing Hymnal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

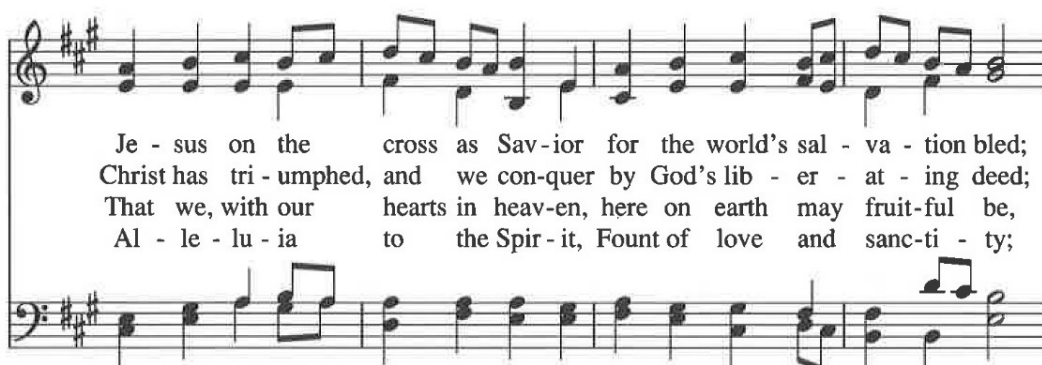
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*Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.**Matt. 28:5-8; Rom. 5:21; 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-22*


1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;
 2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heav - en - ly grace,
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;
 Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;



Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;
 That we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;



But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!
 Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.
 And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

Christopher Wordsworth, gifted nephew of poet William Wordsworth, served the Church of England successively as canon at Westminster, parish priest in Berkshire, and, finally, bishop of Lincoln. This Easter hymn is one of his most enduring.

Tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.
 Tochter Sion, Cologne, 1741
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Guest Musician: Richard Cuoco, French Horn

Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Ralph & Sherrie Ridgeway

Liturgist: Patti Colkos

Greeters: Beston Family



Please Pray For: Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.



Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103

Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100

Bobbie Morkin: Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106

“News for the Pews” for the Week of March 31, 2024

Requests for **Name Tags** should be emailed to (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) or left in writing in the office. Deb will be happy to create new or replacement name tags!

There are still plenty of Sundays available for which **Altar Flower** sponsorship is needed. If you'd like to dedicate the flowers on Sunday morning to a loved one please choose a date on the calendar in the narthex. Flowers are \$30 and you may choose either a single or a double arrangement. For further details please see Edna Colcord.

Each week, usually on Thursday, an **“all church email”** is sent out with important information, upcoming events and other items of church interest. If you are not receiving these emails, please email Deb at admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org, and she will add you to the email list!

Easter Flower Dedications



The Colkos Family

Candy and Skip Dearborn

Karen Gatchell

Ruth Karlson

Gail and Chris Lima

Greg and Martha Lyman

Judy Marek and Chrissy Plumb

Terry and Poppy Nelson

Pat and Leo Olbrych

Alesia Peck, Al and Samantha

Samantha, Kelsey and Aleena

Pierangelo Family

Rich and Rae Teed

Tim and Kathy Timpson

Toman Family

Toman Family

Jim and Marge Trimble

Suzanne Zeckhausen

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Memory of our parents

May God's Love Be With You

In memory of Ross Karlson

In memory of Loved Ones

In honor of loved ones

In memory of Don and Eunice Lamb, Ken Lamb, Chris Burner, Theresa O'Neill, Linda Plumb and John Marek

In memory of Denise and our parents

In Honor of our Parents

In memory of Alan and Lois Peck

In memory of Poppy and Grandma

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Loving Memory of Ruth and Charles Teed and Joyce and Basil Crandell

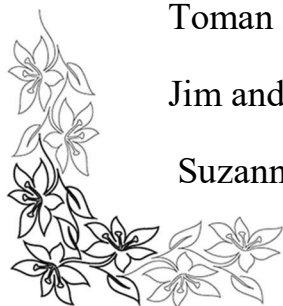
In memory of loved ones

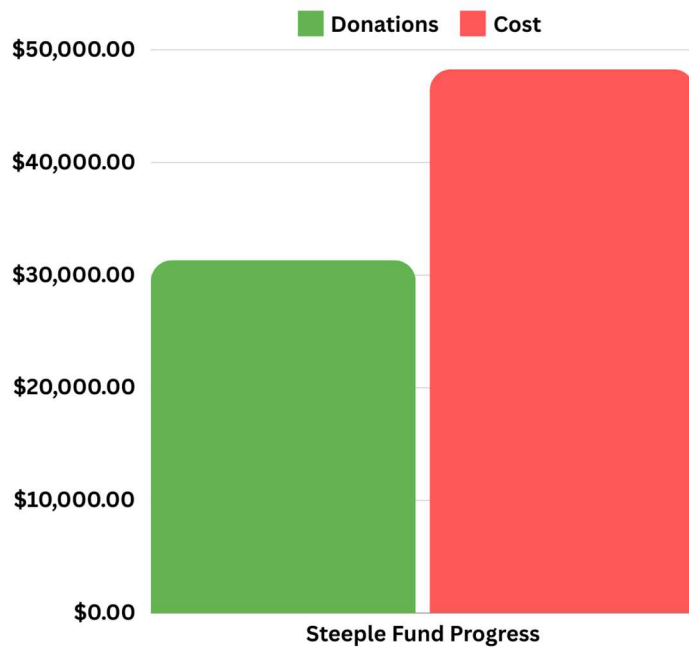
Louise Capron Thinking of You

Vivian Toman Missing You

Friends and Family

In memory of Rev. Dr. Paul Zeckhausen





At the Financial Meeting in 2023 the church agreed to begin a **Steeple Repair project** to address the leaking into the Chancel. The repairs were completed in the summer and several fund raising events were held to help to offset the cost. Many donations from church and community members added to our Save the Steeple Fund which now totals \$31325. The total cost of the repairs was \$48269, leaving a balance to raise of \$16,944.

If you have not yet made a donation to this important church project, please consider doing so today! Checks should be labeled as **Steeple Fund**. Cash can be placed in one of the pew envelopes and labeled "Steeple Fund". We thank you for your generosity!

A WILBRAHAM UNITED PLAYERS PRODUCTION

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

The musical comedy where you choose the ending!

A MUSICAL BY RUPERT HOLMES

ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION PRODUCED BY THE NEW YORK SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, JOSEPH PAPP, PRODUCER

FELLOWSHIP HALL STAGE AT
WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
500 MAIN ST. WILBRAHAM MA

APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20 AT 7:30 PM
APRIL 14 & 21 AT 2:30 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDPLAYERS.ORG/BUY-TICKETS

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF TAMS-WITMARK LLC.
WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.OCM

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, March 31, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt

Monday, April 1, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

6:00 p.m. – Finance Comm. (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast Group

11:00 a.m. – Staff meeting (office)

**6:30 p.m. –Physical Ops Comm.
(ZR)**

**6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts (SS Rooms,
TS, Youth Rm)**

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

6:30 p.m. – Girl Scout Leaders (Lib)

7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanctuary)

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (CR)

Friday, April 5, 2024

Church Office closed

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Saturday, April 6, 2024

9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)

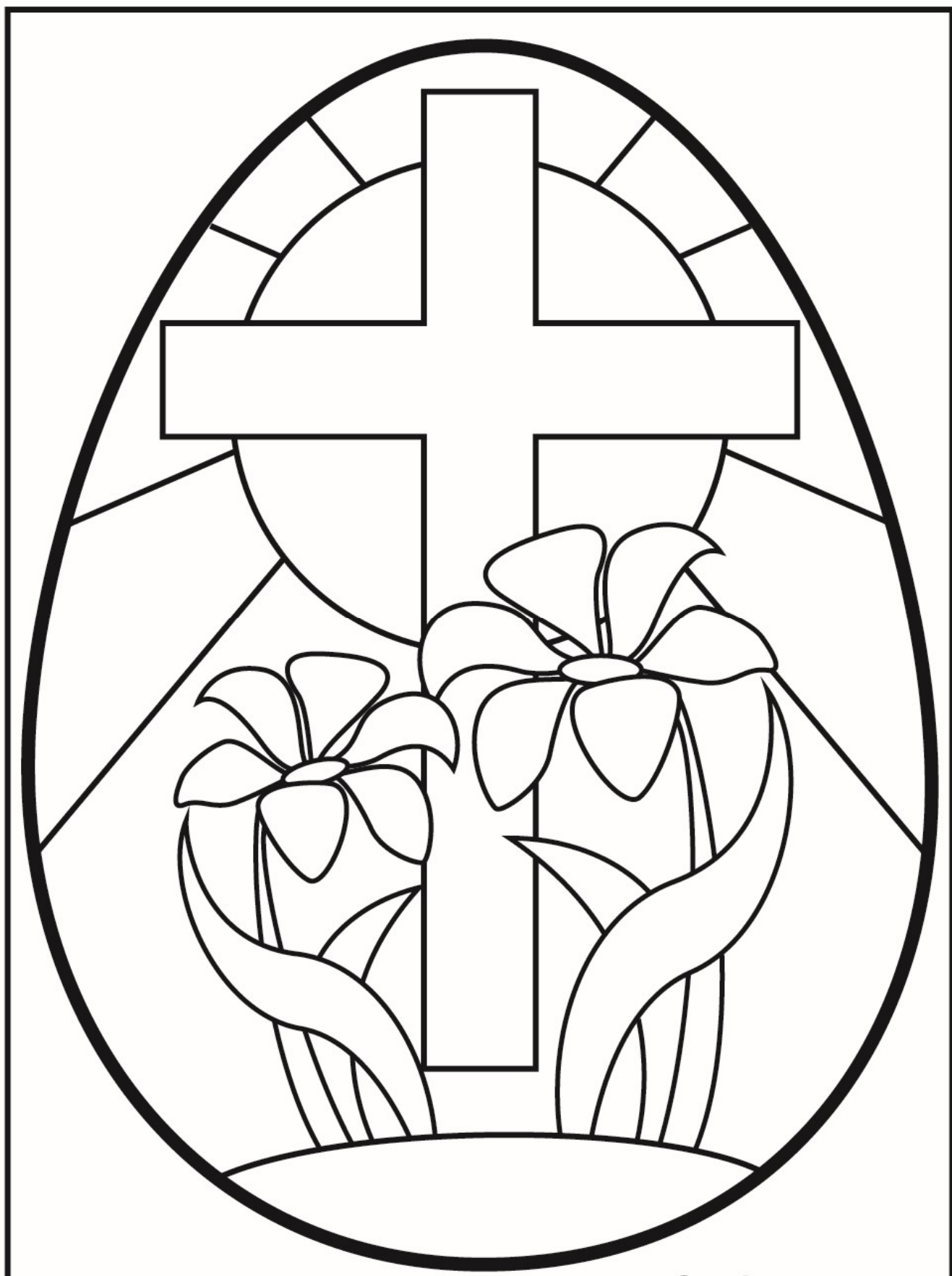
Sunday, April 7, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)



READ IT

This week's Bible story is

The Empty Tomb

from Mark 16:1-8.



Jesus has been raised; he is not here!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Galilee
- Sabbath
- Mary
- Resurrection
- Magdalene

The Gospel of Mark was written about 40 years after Jesus' death. This is the earliest of the four gospels. The Gospel of Mark tends to be simplistic and brief in its narrative, while other gospels describe scenes in more detail. For example, compare Mark's description of the empty tomb (Mark 16:5) to John's (John 24:4).

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 482-487

Spark Bible page 1124

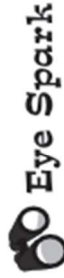
Family Prayer

Dear God, we know that life is full of surprises. We have our own plans, desires, and expectations. Make us open to receive what life brings to us. When we are afraid, like Mary, help us find joy in life's surprises. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 How do you think Mary felt when she saw the empty tomb?
- 2 What's the biggest surprise of your life? How do you think your surprise compared to Mary's?
- 3 Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, and Salome all brought spices to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body. How do we remember and honor our loved ones who have died?
- 4 This Gospel tells us that after they left the tomb, Mary, Mary, and Salome didn't tell anyone what they had seen. What do you do when you get big news? What news do you want to tell everyone? What news do you want to keep to yourself?



Eye Spark

The next time you see a big rock or boulder, think about how heavy the stone in front of Jesus' tomb was.



Ear Spark

The next time you hear something surprising, remember how surprised Mary was by the empty tomb.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

In this story, Mary, Mary, and Salome are going to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body. As a family, talk about how you remember loved ones who have died. What did they do in Jesus' time that we don't do today? What things do we still do today?

For younger kids

As a family, make paper masks with surprised expressions on them. Read today's story and hold up your surprised mask whenever the characters in the story are surprised. You can do it with some of your other favorite Bible stories, too.

For older kids

The stone in front of Jesus' tomb weighed over two tons! An average-size car weighs about as much. Do you think you could move a stone like that? Find out how many of you it would take to equal the weight of the stone in front of Jesus' tomb.



Lectionary: The Empty Tomb Family Page. Spark™ Sunday School
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