

E A S T E R D A Y

April 5, 2026

John 20:1-18

Easter

There has always been something powerful about Mary's lonesome walk to the tomb that first Easter morning as each grief-filled step leads to renewed hope. And the beauty is that while we know what awaits her — not a lifeless body, but rather the Risen and Resurrected Lord — she doesn't.

In her pre-dawn funeral march, she has no clue that with just a few more difficult steps she will understand how God's promises are true. She will be awed to see how death doesn't get the victorious last word. She will hear the blessed new hellos that come after the heart-breaking good-byes.

Whenever I find myself moving in slow motion and the weight of loss makes it hard to take even one tiny shuffle forward, I take my side next to Mary. I imagine walking with her to the tomb of death that will be revealed as the tomb of life. I walk with her noticing how the darkness gradually changes color. One step forward and the black sky turns to gray. Another step forward and the gray lightens with twinges of pink. Yet another step and the pinks give way to dazzling golden hues. Each step, a step of faith. Each step, a step of promise. Each step leading to the promise of a resurrected life.

It happened to Mary, and it can happen to you on this day, the Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday!

Remember Mary and find the courage in your losses of life to keep stepping forward, for those are the steps leading to hope and healing. Those are the steps that will reveal to us the loving compassion of our Risen Lord and Friend.

God of Resurrection Hope, we praise You for the new day dawning. In Jesus, our hopes are renewed. In Jesus, grief will turn into joy. In Jesus, our tombs will indeed be made empty. May the steps of faith we take be strengthened by Your Love and may we never step moving forward toward Your beautiful promises. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

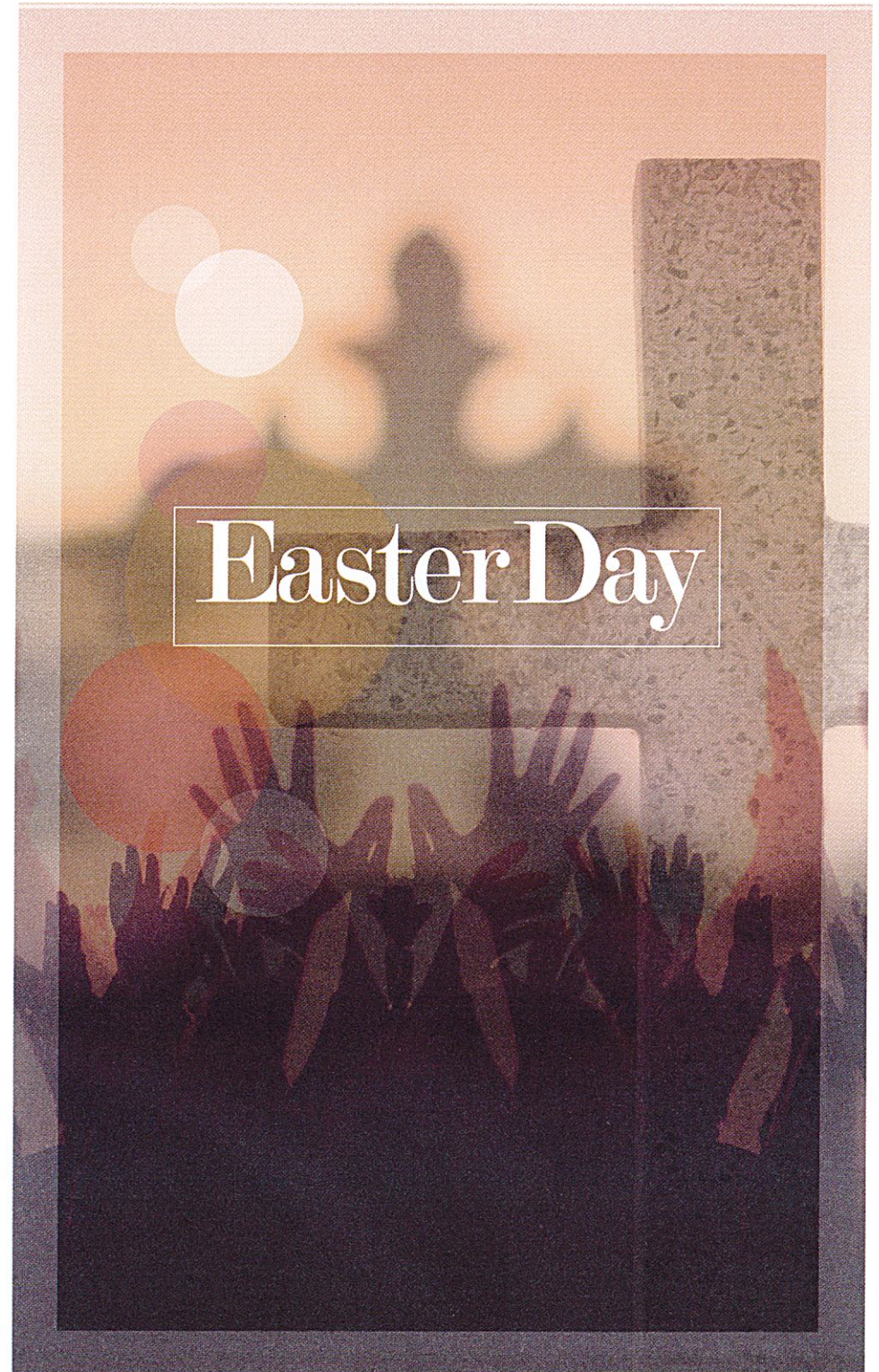
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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BUC0306



St. John's Grace United Church of Christ

1000 S Rolling Road, Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026 11:00 AM

Vision Statement:

Our vision is to be a community of faith and a voice of hope following Jesus' way of love and service.

www.stjohnsuccmd.com

Nursery care is available during service for young children.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit Congregation reads text in *bold italic*.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silence

In the name of Compassion, the embodiment of Peace, the incarnation of Mercy, we turn ourselves to you, we hear your word, we see the Radiance of your face. Our whole being resonates with your Truth. May we open ourselves to your Presence now and always, here, and in every place we travel. Let our every step recognize the holiness of the realm in which we live. Let our every word express the sacred covenant we hold in our hearts with you. Amen.

Silent Meditation

Lighting of the Presence Candle

In lighting this candle, we acknowledge that:
God is here, now, everywhere, always.

+Litany of Praise (from Psalm 46 adapted by Nan Merrill)

The Beloved is our refuge and our strength,
A Loving Presence in times of trouble.

Therefore we need not fear though the earth should change,
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
Though the waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the Holy City,

The holy habitation of the most high.

The Beloved is in the midst of it, it shall not be moved;

Our loving Creator is an ever-present help.

+Opening Hymn:

Christ is Living

NCH 235

Morning Prayer

We find life in you, the same life in us, the same pulse of a heartbeat that is noticed by the miracle of our awareness. We see the hands that work, the arms that carry, the legs and feet that bear the weight of our body. The gravity that holds us close to earth never stops, continuously sharing presence with us. Nothing exists without this awareness that sees everything through our eyes, that hears every sound, the deep, dark tone of emptiness breaking open into new life. Help us keep the beauty of life sacred, letting it unfold before our patient eyes. Help us to notice the small behaviors of a resurrected body, the sensitivity and tenderness, the quiet astonishment of new movement. May we celebrate the simple walk home after life has been raised up and made new. Raise us from a deathly existence, so we might transcend all that is incomplete, everything that has been denied, and from this perspective, grant us light that when we walk among people, we will find the eternity that exists within us. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray:

We sometimes lose our awareness of your presence God, and we feel as if you are distant, and your silence can be overwhelming. Our thoughts, our words, and our actions lose connection to your love and mercy. Our decisions do not always reflect your divine justice and forgiveness. But here, now, as witness to your resurrection power we fully open our hearts and minds to you. May our whole being--body, mind, and spirit--turn and face you, may we acknowledge the power of your truth and love, may that truth bring us the life found in our rebirth, so we may live a life that fully responds to your invitation, to have life and to live in abundance. Amen.

The Prayer of Return

The love of God is given to us without requirement or condition, it comes to us with grace and mercy. God's love is eternal, and nothing can separate us from God's love. Receive God's love and honor that love by giving love to others and to life in the same way revealed to us by Jesus Christ. Amen.

+Passing of the Peace

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

'Out of the Shadows'

An Easter Cantata by the Chancel Choir

Narrators: Stelli Munnis
Jen Pettis

"...out of the shadows of darkness, Jesus triumphed
...out of the shadows of death, Jesus rose
...out of the shadows of the crucifixion, we are all reborn"

Prayers for the Church and for the People

The 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.

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS

Invitation to Generosity:

God calls us to be a light to the world. We make our offering as witness to God's love at work among us. In gratitude for the gifts we have received, and in hope for the light God is still bringing into the world. Amen.

Your generous offerings are appreciated and used for continuing the missions of this church.

For electronic giving, a QR code is available in the pews or in your bulletin at the end of the printed worship service.

+Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Institution

We come to this table knowing that Jesus instituted the sacrament of communion at a Passover meal, through his call for us to remember him, and in remembering him we recognize that he revealed to us a God of truth and love, a God of presence, our God of mercy and forgiveness. He took bread, blessed it, and shared it. We have learned that in our sharing, the elements we share become sacred. The bread and drink, through our prayers and blessing, become gifts emblematic of God's abundance and providence.

Blessing of the Elements

Pour out your Spirit on us and these gifts of bread and drink, so in this sharing we recognize Christ in our midst. This offering of praise and thanksgiving is an offering of us to you. Hasten the day when the prophets' dreams come to pass: when justice rolls down like waters and nations no longer threaten each other, neither shall they learn war anymore. This we pray by the authority of Jesus and in your holy grace. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. This is bread and beverage for the journey. In this church community, we share an inclusive communion, which means you need not be a member of this congregation or any community of faith to join us at the table. We believe Jesus Christ sets the table and Christ welcomes all. Likewise, no one is required by the host to participate. Now, let all who wish to share in this meal, partake, for God's table is ready.

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

Gluten free elements are available

*The trays of covenant include – inner circle of grape juice
the outer circles are wine.*

Parents, please help your children in selecting.

Please hold the elements and we will commune together.

Words for partaking the bread: The bread of life

Words for partaking the wine: A cup to remember

Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Please take communion cup and dispose of it in the
Narthex after worship.***

Communion Hymn: I Am The Bread of Life

Verse 1

I am the Bread of life

You who come to me shall not hunger

And who believe in me shall not thirst

No one can come to me unless the Father beckons

Chorus

And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up

And I will raise you up, on the last day.

Verse 2

The bread that I will give

Is my flesh for the life of the world

And if you eat of this bread

You shall live forever; you shall live forever.

Verse 3

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man

And drink of his blood, and drink of his blood

You shall not have life within you.

Verse 4

I am the Resurrection, I am the life

If you believe in me even though you die

You shall live forever.

Verse 5

Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ

The Son of God, who has come into the world.

John 6: Suzanne Toolan, SM b.1927

Tune: Bread of Life, Suzanne Toolan, SM b.1927

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

***We give thanks for the gifts we have received during this
communion of remembrance. We are sustained by the
spiritual power of your presence. Your presence strengthens
us, gives us hope, inspires us to share your love. May we grow
in love, may we grow in our ability to see and understand
your truth. Help us to hold sacred the covenant promised by
Jesus that you are in us, and we are in you, through the life,
death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

WE GO OUT TO LIVE AND TO SERVE

+Commission and Blessing

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.

What does God need from us?

***Simply do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our
God.***

Continue to serve with faith and love, depart from this time
today committed to sharing the best of yourself, through
extravagant generosity of time and resources, meeting the
needs of others, both spoken and unspoken, seen and unseen,
heard and unheard.

***We will go now seeking justice, sharing compassion, and
promoting hope in the world.***

My dear friends in faith, will you go into your worlds to be
people of God in Christ's name?

We will. Amen!

+Closing Hymn: Christ The Lord Is Risen
Today

NCH #233

+Benediction:

We welcome you this morning, and invite you to return, and worship with us every Sunday morning at 11:00 AM

For your convenience you can scan our QR code to contribute electronically.



Church School resumes April 12th

Calling all children! We invite you to share in worship together with your children at the 11:00 am service. After opening hymns and prayers, the children depart for Church School for the remainder and continue learning about God's Word through storytelling, hands-on activities and fellowship.



Name Tags for Members and Friends!

Members and friends are asked to wear name tags for worship time because they help other people. It is also helpful for folks who may know the face but not the name of another. Wearing a name tag is voluntary but shows that you care about others.

If you need a name tag, please ask a greeter or usher at the welcome desk to fill out a badge request slip!

Lost and Found:

We have over ten pairs of glasses, 3 water bottles and one hat that have found their way into the office after services. If you or someone you know is missing one of the above, please stop by today before we pass them on.

*St. John's Grace United Church of Christ
Stjohnsuccmd.com
410-744-5700
welcome@stjohnsgraceucc.org*

*Senior Pastor and Interim Minister: Rev Jeff Munnis
Email: revjeffmunnis@stjohnsgraceucc.org
Office Manager: Barbara Burck
Email: barbara@stjohnsgraceucc.org*

Connections...

Connecting our community through prayers, thoughts, and actions – no matter where we are today!

WE HOLD in LOVE and PRAYER:

Please keep these friends and loved ones in your prayers! If there is someone you would like added to our list, let Pastor Jeff or Barbara know. The church email is welcome@stjohnsgraceucc.org.

Those added to the prayer list will remain for three months before being removed. If prayers need to be continued for another three months, please let Barbara know your request.

Continuing Prayers

J.J.
Family of Ella Scannello
Family of Herb Dement
Family of Kathy Collins
Mary Weaver
Lois Benson
Family of Audrey Sears Knofski
Luanne Schaeffer
Family of Dr. Mary 'Tessie' Behrens
Kathy Crout
Family of Sharon Hamilton
Lois Hotchkiss
Adrian Kavanaugh

Serving Our Country

Michael Barbarino Joe Clark
Andrew Robey Jon Fuller
Ty Smith Jay Robey
Tom Myers Josh Tullius
John Howard Jason Shoemaker

Hospice

Assisted Living
Doris Bush
Virginia Hoffman

Prayers for the people of Cuba during power blackout

Keep Lois & Jim Benson in your prayers as Lois recovers from her back surgery.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Easter Family Fun	<i>Sun, Apr 5th</i>	<i>10:00 am</i>	<i>Hall</i>
Easter Worship w/Cantata	<i>Sun, Apr 5th</i>	<i>11:00 am</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
Brightview Bible Study	<i>Wed, Apr 1st</i>	<i>1:00 pm</i>	<i>Brightview</i>
Transition Team Meeting	<i>Tues, Apr 14th</i>	<i>6:30 pm</i>	<i>Meeting Rm</i>
Vendor & Craft Fair	<i>Sat, Apr 18th</i>	<i>10:00-2:00 pm</i>	<i>Hall</i>
Ministries Council Mtg	<i>Tues, Apr 21st</i>	<i>6:30 pm</i>	<i>Zoom</i>
Board of Trustees Mtg	<i>Tues, Apr 21st</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>	<i>Zoom</i>
Mad Hatter Tea Party	<i>Sun, May 3rd</i>	<i>12:00 pm</i>	<i>Hall</i>
Vacation Bible School	<i>June 22 – 28th</i>	<i>Save the Date!</i>	



Calling All Bakers!

St. John's Grace Spring Craft & Vendor Event is Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10am to 2pm.

We will be having a Bake Table and need donations of all kinds of baked goods! (cakes, cupcakes, cookies, brownies, etc). Please contact Sandy McCawley or Sandy Rose if you can donate.

Thank you for supporting this event! And don't forget to invite your family and friends to come to the Spring Fair!

Governing Body Minutes

Our governing body consists of the Board of Trustees and the Ministries Council. Meetings are held monthly via Zoom. Interested parties are welcome. Minutes of the meetings are posted in the office hallway. Contact the office if you would like a paper copy or email copy.

View Past Services on our Website

If you missed a worship service here at St. John's Grace, you can now view the service on our website!
Go to www.stjohnsuccmd.com **Worship/ Online Worship** tab and scroll down to the service you would like to view. They are on our YouTube channel so you can subscribe if you like.

Deadline for Submitting Announcements

Announcements or changes to announcements need to be submitted by noon on Tuesday prior to the Sunday service to be included in the bulletin. Email to barbara@stjohnsgraceucc.org.



Cut Flowers Needed for Children's Easter Cross

Cut flowers of any color or type to complete the children's Easter cross. Bring them by 10 AM for the Easter Family Fun time next Sunday. See Michele for any questions.



EASTER FAMILY FUN



Every Bunny Welcome! Hop on down for special fun and hospitality in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM prior to worship Easter morning, April 5th. There will be an egg hunt, crafts, music, games and snacks! ...and if we are lucky – a special guest!

CEA: April continues with SNACKS and DESSERT!
No Candy Please!



Snacks: Cookies, Crackers, Nuts, Protein Bars, Chips, Pretzels
Desserts: Cake Mix, Brownie Mix, Muffin Mix
As usual, CEA welcomes ANY food, at any time!
CEA can use any donations so please pick up whatever you can for our neighbors!
When Faith Goes to Market – It Always Takes a Basket!

Vacation Bible School
Taking Registrations Now

June 22nd to June 26th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Accept the Challenge and come with us to Snowball Mountain for exciting winter sports events.

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me"
Phil 4:13



To sign up go to:
<https://stjohnsgraceucc.mycokesburyvbs.com>

St. John's Grace UCC 1000 S Rolling Road Catonsville, MD 21228
www.stjohnsuccmd.com 410-744-5700
welcome@stjohnsgraceucc.org



ST. JOHN'S GRACE UCC
SPRING FAIR
CRAFT & VENDOR EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026
10AM TO 2PM

ST. JOHN'S GRACE UCC
1000 SOUTH ROLLING ROAD, CATONSVILLE 21228

Lots of Vendors and Crafters

Food - Raffles - Cake Walk - White Elephant Table -
Baked Goods Table - Pick-A-Prize Baskets -
Kids' Area with Earth Day Crafts & Activities
and

Groundhog Landscaping will be on site selling
spring plants, flowers, and more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: CONTACT LAURA @ 410-897-2534

You're Invited
TO A

Don't
Be
Late!



**MAD
HATTER
TEA PARTY**

Sunday, May 3, 2026
12:30 PM

....

Savory & Sweet Treats
Variety of Teas

Fellowship Hall

Tickets \$25 per person



Easter Flowers

In Memory of:

All Loved Ones
Anna Edwards
Billy Weirich
Charleen Schraum
Delbert & Ethel Tullius
George Horn
Jackie Griswold
JaShawn Ivory
Joe Rose
John Davis
Kathy Collins
Loved Ones
Loved Ones who are no longer with us
Mary Lou Satorie
Miss Bridgette Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Benson
My parents
Our Loved Ones
Our parents, Thelma & Frank Ruppert
Pauline Glanzer
Raymond & Helen Rutter
Richard & Barbara Buehler
Sharon Hamilton
Tessie Behrens
William & Elizabeth Burck

By:

Alta Horn
Greg Satorie-Robinson
Tina Hamilton
Greg Satorie-Robinson
Family
Alta Horn
Her family
Greg Satorie-Robinson
Love, Sandy
Patricia Davis
Tina Hamilton
Jan Bauer
The Prinn Family
Greg Satorie-Robinson
Jim & Lois Benson
Jim & Lois Benson
Connie Heasley
Heather & Russ Poetker
Billy, Cassie and Laura
Heather & Russ Poetker
Family
Barbara & James
Tina Hamilton
Tina Hamilton
James & Barbara

Easter Flowers

In Honor of:

Alta Horn
Barbara Burck
Betty-Mom Ewing
Dawn Perrone

Jeanna, Bailey and Janet

Jim & Lois Benson
Kathy Crout
My Helen Simmons
Our Children & Grandchildren
Our Minister of Music
Sherri Tullius
St John's Grace Congregation
Thanks to Rev David Nau
Villager 952

By:

Michele & Hogie Rolf
James Burck
Laura and Jerry
Michele & Hogie Rolf
I Love You! MomMom
Dawn
Michele & Hogie Rolf
Michele & Hogie Rolf
Love you more
Sherri & Steve Tullius
The Chancel Choir
Laura Prinn
Sherri Tullius
Ann Dement
Villager 157



REJOICE!



Happy Birthday,
April Babies

- 1 Joe Clark
- 2 Dawn Perrone
Thomas Mowery
- 6 Lou Deibel
Ashley Jankowski
- 12 Barbara Mowery
- 13 Emma Doherty
- 17 Helen Simmons
- 24 Samantha Jankowski
- 25 Heather Glidewell
- 27 Roy Shover

Happy birthday also, to those
we may have missed!



Happy Birthday!