

**JESUS IS
NOT
DEAD**





UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 www.uccmedina.org

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LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

*Those who are able please stand

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“The Call” from Five Mystical Songs Jerry Mason, soloist & Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Poetry of George Herbert set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.*

WELCOME AND EASTER GREETINGS

Leader: Good morning, Church! We are Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational, and no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,

People: **You are welcome here!**

Leader: Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

People: **Christ is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT

Excerpt of “Hallelujah Chorus” from Messiah – G.F. Handel

Chancel Choir

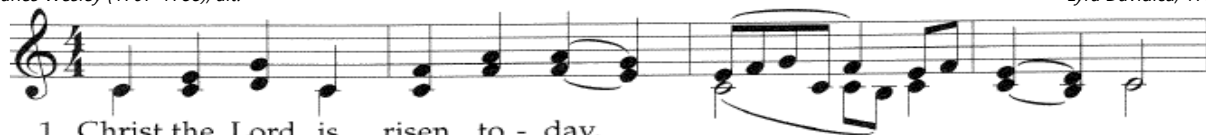
*OPENING HYMN

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. Alleluias

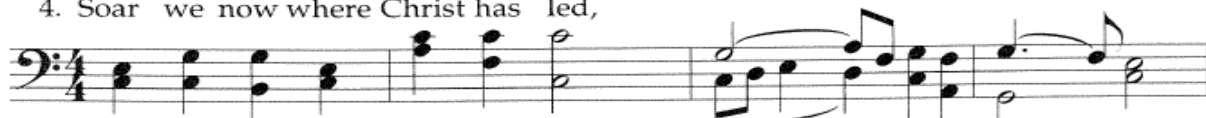
Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Lyra Davidica, 1708



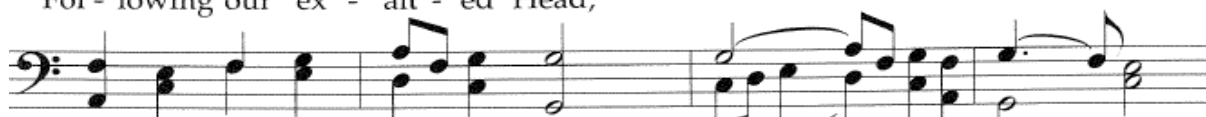
1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done,
4. Soar we now where Christ has led,

Al - le - lu - ia!



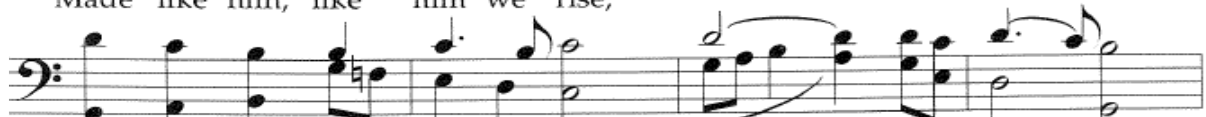
All cre - a - tion, join to say,
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,

Al - le - lu - ia!



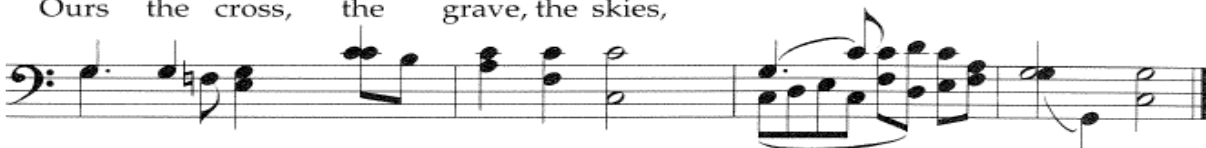
Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
Je - sus died, our souls to save,
Death in vain for - bids him rise,
Made like him, like him we rise,

Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
Christ has op - ened par - a - dise.
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,

Al - le - lu - ia!



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Holy God, we have smashed our idols.

People: We have smashed the false gods in search of you, the Living God.

Leader: Christ, we have renounced the ways of death.

People: We have chosen your way of life and life abundant.

Leader: Spirit, you have proclaimed that death and injustice have been defeated.

People: Your peace and compassion reign!

Leader: We join in one voice and shout,

People: ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS ALIVE! Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Easter" from Five Mystical Songs

Colleen Rice, Soloist & Chancel Choir

Poetry of George Herbert set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Rise, heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise

Without delays,

Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise

With him may'st rise:

That, as his death calcined thee to dust,

His life may make thee gold, and much more, Just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part

With all thy art.

The cross taught all wood to resound his name

Who bore the same.

His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key

Is best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song

Pleasant and long:

Or since all music is but three parts vied,

And multiplied;

O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,

And make up our defects with his sweet art.

SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18 (*Found in your pew bible on N.T. pg. 108*)

John Kavouras, Liturgist

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns & Pastoral Prayer

SERMON

"Jesus Is Not Dead"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Antiphon (Let all the World in Every Corner Sing) ” from Five Mystical Songs

Poetry of George Herbert set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Chancel Choir

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.

The havens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly:
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.

The church with Psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out:
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offertory Invitation

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the day the Lord has made, we shall rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: He has risen!

People: He has risen indeed!

Leader: Let us rise in body or spirit and sing out our praise!

*Doxology (words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)

Praise God, the source of life and birth;
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;
All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

*Dedication

Forgive us when we mistake you for the gardener. Or an interruption. Christ, we thank you for your continued presence with all your children. Rise in us. May what we offer be the bread of life to a hungry world. May what we offer be living waters through which justice rolls. Use this congregation to reveal your presence here among us. In the name of you, our God, our Christ, our Spirit, we pray. Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

– Beethoven/ arr. Janet Van Valey & Susan Berry

Alleluia Ringers

*CLOSING HYMN

Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.

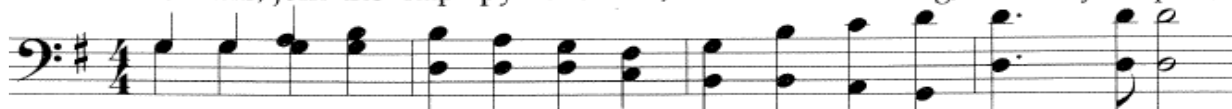
"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.

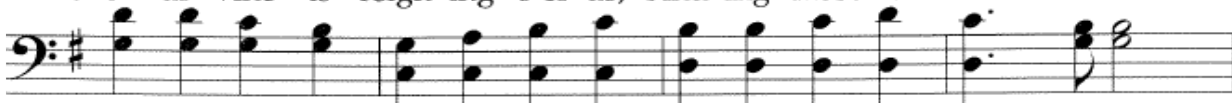
Ludwig van Beethoven. 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864



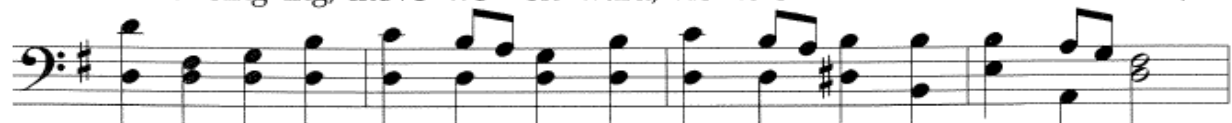
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus; stars of morn - ing, take your part;



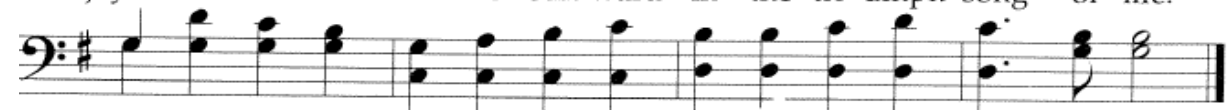
hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bind - ing those of ten - der heart.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive our fear and doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, all who live in love are thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, move we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife,



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.
joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.



*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

Leader: Our expectations have been smashed!
People: God has defeated our egotistical violence and Christ has been raised!
Leader: Our judgement has been smashed!
People: We are God’s beloved! In whom God is well pleased!
Leader: No more shall we avoid God;
People: for we have been called friends of the Most High!
Leader: May whatever you have planned today be a break from your busyness and all that would take away from your life.
People: For Christ came to bring life and life abundantly! Thanks be to our God, giver of life and conqueror of death!
Leader: Having been blessed by Mary’s Good News of the resurrection, be a blessing today! Go! For this service has ended;
People: And our service now begins! Amen!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“God Be with You”

**God be with you ‘til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you ‘til we meet again.**

*POSTLUDE

“Toccata” from *Symphony No. 5 for Organ, Op. 42, No. 1* – Charles-Marie Widor
Cathy Fafrak, Organist

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org

Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Sharon Perry, Custodian

Easter Lilies



NAME OF DONOR

Todd Bauer
Mary Bessick
Lisa Bowen
Richard & Dorie Christy
Jan Coleman
The Davies Family
Sue & Ken Dean
Lindsay English
Lindsay English
Edward L. Farnham
Carole Fawcett

Molly Galdamez
Beth & Craig Hari
The Hofstetter Family
Arnold & Cheri Ingraham
Arnold & Cheri Ingraham
Faye Jessie
The Johns Family
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Frances Lagen
Lorna Lindsley
Jerry Mason
Peter E & Alice Metzloff
Ellen & Jeff Nutter
Ellen & Jeff Nutter
Lori Price
Corey & Jaclyn Raub
Dennis & Allayne Reese

IN MEMORY OF

Mom
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur R. Dunger
Larry Bowen & Keith Bowen
Our Parents
My Parents, Jack & Jean Post
Ayla
George Dean
Bill English
Nancy MacDougall
Helen W. Farnham
My Parents,
George O. & Lillian D. Fawcett
Erin & Ember
Our Parents
Jack Hofstetter
Berneta M. Ingraham
Carol & Bill Brenneman
Carl Jessie
Jerry Johns
Sally Lamb Lutz
My sisters, JoAnn & Linda
Susan Lindsley & Darwin Lindsley
Elizabeth Mason
Loved Ones
Jerry Nutter
Robert MacKenzie
Loved Ones
Our Grandparents
Loved Ones

NAME OF DONOR

Jan & Chet Simmons
Judy & Ken Smith
John & Joan Walschon
Becky Weber
Ken, Karen & Greg Zuehlke

IN MEMORY OF

Jay Simmons
Alta & Hartford Arenz
Our Parents
Dave Weber
Donald Wildt & Richard Zuehlke

NAME OF DONOR

The Davies Family
Sue & Ken Dean
The Johns Family
Corey & Jaclyn Raub
Ken & Liz Wolff

IN HONOR OF

Clayton Ellenberger
Herbert Dean
Our Family & Friends
Our Parents and Family
Ryan, Lily & Lilah

NAME OF DONOR

The Armbrust Family
Deb Waldron



THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

APRIL 9, 2023

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

April 9, 2023 thru April 16, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun **EASTER SUNDAY & Easter Offering**
No Jesus Vibes Sunday School
7:00 am Sunrise Service at Spring Grove Cemetery Chapel
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

Mon **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TODAY**

Tues 8:00 am Men's breakfast

12:00 pm Book study

7:00 pm Bible Study

7:00 pm DELT Meeting

7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Wed 10:30 am Quilters

6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 pm Gathering Band rehearsal

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thurs 7:00 pm “Keep Talking About Mental Health Support Group”

Fri 7:00 pm Mental Health Support Group

Sat
Sun **BIBLE SUNDAY**

8:15 am Chapel Worship

9:00 am Gathering Worship

9:45 am Children's Choir

10:30 am Traditional Worship

11:45 am Caring Team Meeting

4:30 pm Youth Group

Worship Highlights:

7:00 am – Sunrise Service @ Spring Grove Cemetery Chapel

8:15 am – UCC Chapel

9:00 am – Fellowship Hall

10:30 am – Sanctuary (Livestreamed)

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Sermon: “Jesus Is Not Dead”

- Rev. Luke London

EASTER OFFERING APRIL 9TH

This year's Easter offering will support our Shepherd's Fund, which assists local community members who need a helping hand. Many members of the community come to the Church in need of gas for their cars, food, laundry money, hotel stays and help with their utilities and other bills. The office staff provides a list of local agencies that support their needs and some monetary assistance. We have noticed an increase in local needs. Any money collected during our Easter service will build up the Shepherd's Fund so we can continue to help our neighbors.

NO JESUS VIBES TODAY

On Easter Sunday there will be no Jesus Vibes during the 10:30 service. Children will stay upstairs with their family.

BIBLE SUNDAY

Bible Sunday will be Sunday, April 16th. On this day four special third graders will be presented their very own bible. We hope you can join us for their special day and help us celebrate them.

EASTER EGG HUNT **Today after the 10:30 service**

After the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday, we will once again have a quick Easter Egg Hunt for the children in the grassy area by the pergola. The kids should bring their Easter Basket or a bag so they can add a few more eggs to their collection!

LAST SUNDAY TO BRING ITEMS

The Mission Team is making a gardening gift basket to benefit Operation Homes. The basket will be auctioned off at their April 16th spaghetti dinner fundraiser at Prince of Peace Church. There will be a collection box for these items under the Operation Homes sign up table. All donated items should be received by Sunday, April 9th so the basket can be created and delivered. Thank you so much for your help! Items requested may be found on this SignUp Genuis link: <https://tinyurl.com/4s7kwxar>

OPERATION HOMES SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Please plan to join us for this very worthy cause! Sunday, April 16th from noon-3pm, there will be a spaghetti dinner at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church to raise funds for Operation Homes. Tickets are \$12 per person and \$8 for 6 yrs. and under. There will also be a raffle basket. Order your tickets online at operationhomes.org/store/ or call 330-419-4863.

LAWN MOWER CREW

"The Lord God took humans and put them in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." – Genesis 2:15

If you admire the beautiful landscaping of our church's grounds, please consider joining the mowing crew. The time commitment for mowing the lawn averages and 1½ hours every two weeks in the spring and once a month in the summer and fall. The Property and Grounds team provides a riding mower, push mower, gasoline and trimming tools. Please contact Carl Skorepa at carlskorepa@yahoo.com or call 330-421-3189 for more details.

DONATION OF THE MONTH

The Mission Team's item for the month is **laundry detergent/pods**. There is a need for this at Claggett, Cups Café and local food pantries. We also collected 73 boxes of granola bars in March! Thank you for your continued support!

PINWHEEL WALK TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

On Sunday, April 16th from 1-3pm, let's head out to the Medina Square to support the Children's Center of Medina County as they plant 595 pinwheels representing each case of Child Abuse or Neglect investigated by Medina County Job and Family Services during 2022. Participants are encouraged to wear blue, the designated color for child abuse prevention awareness.

COSTA RICA THANK YOU!

Now that we are back home and settled in, the 2023 Costa Rica Mission Team would like to thank everyone for your prayers, good wishes, and donations. As always, the build was an amazing experience. The donations from the church Mission Team, the congregation and friends helped change the lives of the family, The Hoyer Lift for Luis was greatly appreciated and will forever make his bathing and personal needs care much improved. The shopping funds for Marta has allowed her to cook indoors on the small propane stove rather than the open fire she had been cooking on. Since "a picture is worth a thousand words" we thought you might enjoy watching this video. You can meet the family and walk through the build with us. Please follow this link to a YouTube video. <https://youtu.be/iGQBaqYnDIY>
Thank you again for everything!

COMPASSION CAMP

This year's Vacation Bible School, "Compassion Camp" will be held June 5th-8th. Registration will begin on Easter Sunday! So, mark your calendars and plan to be part of the fun. If you are willing to help and volunteer in any way, please see Stacie Yates. We will start having planning meetings soon.

EASTER BAG OUTREACH

Thank you for another great year of providing Easter Bags to 33 kids that have a parent who is incarcerated. Thank you especially to those who filled a bag, delivered the bags, made phone calls, and helped organize sign-ups and other behind-the-scenes work. You have all helped make this Easter a little better for kids in a tough situation.

Why is Christianity in Decline and What Can We Do About It?

Only 28% of Generation Z (those generally 25 years old and younger) attend church at least once a month, and 31% of both Generation Z and 31% older adults never attend church service outside of special occasions such as weddings and funerals. Why is this and how can we reverse these trends? I believe we have the potential and opportunity to forge a Christianity that is exciting, growing, impactful, and engaging. You are invited to join Ryan Collins as he presents his seminary capstone project on April 16th following the 10:30 am service in Fellowship Hall. The presentation and discussion time will be about an hour and a half long. I hope to see you there!



RELIGION & SCIENCE

TACKLING THE MYTHS OF SCIENCE VS RELIGION

APRIL 17	INTRODUCTION 2 AND 6 PM
APRIL 24	FLAT EARTH 2 AND 6 PM
MAY 1	GALILEO 2 AND 6 PM
MAY 8	DARWIN 2 AND 6 PM

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NEW BOOK STUDY...

Religion and Science: The UCC is part of Mainstream Christianity. This term has been forgotten, but it has great impact for those who know. It means that we come from a stream that sees no divide between science and religion. Science and religion can be viewed as two ways of telling the same story. Science deals with the how and religion deals with the why. Science can tell us about the nature of things where religion can tell us about the nature of the universe.

This Monday night study requires no book or prior learning, just an open mind as Pastor Luke will tackle some of the myths of science vs. religion, how they came to be, and what the true stories are.



HOME SWEET HOME

A worship series celebrating that
"God so loved the world..."

April 23 to May 28

QUILTS FOR KIDS

Expecting a new baby in your life? Want to be ready for the next baby shower? Have a special little one in your life? The Caring Team presents... "Quilts for Kids" a raffle fundraiser. Check out the quilts on display in the East Room on Sunday starting April 16th. Money raised will be used to purchase highchairs/child friendly seating for Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be sold for \$2 each or 6 for \$10. The drawing will occur at the Ladies and Girls Tea on Saturday, May 20th.

LADIES AND GIRLS TEA

The tea will be held on Saturday, May 20th from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be \$10 per person and \$5 for girls under 10. Ticket sales will begin on Sunday, April 16th in the East Room. Vicki Miller will be presenting the program "For All the Tea in China."

The committee is seeking to borrow teacups and tea pots as well as volunteers to help. If you have items that you would be willing to let us borrow for the day or would like to help, please contact Beth Hari, Darlene Fazekas or Becky Weber.

The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am

**Please submit articles to the church office at office@uccmedina.org
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

April 9, 2023
Easter

John 20:1-18

Today we celebrate Resurrection Day! The women that first Easter Sunday did not know it was resurrection day, though, when they arose in the dark and made their way tentatively to the tomb where they had laid their friend and teacher. Still, although they did not know what they would find, they moved forward into the pre-dawn darkness, ready to perform what they believe would be a last act of love and service for their friend.

"Perhaps it is no wonder," Dorothy Sayers wrote in the essay *Are Women Human?*, published nearly 100 years ago, "that the women were first at the Cradle and last at the Cross. They had never known a man like this Man - there never has been such another. A prophet and teacher who never nagged at them, never flattered or coaxed or patronized; who never made arch jokes about them, never treated them either as "The women, God help us!" or "The ladies, God bless them!"; who rebuked without querulousness and praised without condescension; who took their questions and arguments seriously; who never mapped out their sphere for them, never urged them to be feminine or jeered at them for being female; who had no axe to grind and no uneasy male dignity to defend; who took them as he found them and was completely unself-conscious. There is no act, no sermon, no parable in the whole Gospel that borrows its pungency from female perversity; nobody could possibly guess from the words and deeds of Jesus that there was anything "funny" about woman's nature."

Centuries of church dogma and male leadership, including many periods in which systems of power explicitly sought to oppress and silence women, has not suppressed the power and wonder of this resurrection reality. In his life, Jesus loved and respected women just as they were, and after his death, they were the ones who cared for him and spoke the first words about him. Jesus needed the women in his circle as much as they needed him.

On this Resurrection Day, we rejoice that Christ came to bring new life to all people. And we specifically celebrate the women who waited at the cross, who went to the tomb and who told the first stories about our Risen Savior.

Quotation from Sayers, Dorothy L., *Are Women Human?*, William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2005.