

Parma Greece United Church of Christ

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*"No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome at Parma Greece UCC!"*

April 4, 2021

Easter Service

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Call to Worship

L: The ways of death in this world are many.

P: The words of death surround us.

L: The fear of death envelopes us.

P: But we come now to hear a different Word,

L: a true Word

P: a life-giving Word.

L: We are here, where life begins anew,

P: where tears are wiped away,

L: where a banquet table has been set,

P: where death has been swallowed up forever.

L: We do not fully understand it.

P: We may not fully believe it.

L: And yet here it is:

P: the power of Christ's life within us and among us.

ALL: So let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation!

Opening Hymn: #253, Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!

Invocation

We are not eye-witnesses to an event, as were Mary and the disciples; we have not journeyed through a dangerous city to seek answers or consolation; we have not seen angels gathering at the rim of this day, or wept in the garden this morning because we could not find Him.

But we are here to attest to a story that has not lost its power during twenty centuries of change and conflict. We are here because those before us carried this story as if it were precious gold; cherished it as if it were the key to a hidden wisdom.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, take your places here today in celebration and in awe. What you are about to hear again, has the capacity to change the world. Your very presence attests to the rising up of life from the tomb of despair, and to the uncontrollable power of God.

It is Easter morning again: and we will celebrate.

Gloria Patri – Unison

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.**

Collect – Unison

Lord God, who holds the power of life and death, through the mighty resurrection of your Son, you have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory, who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive, one God, now and forever.

Reading of the Word

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 25:6-9

L: For the Word of God in Scripture

P: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

L: For the Word of God among us

P: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

L: For the Word of God within us

P: Praise to You, O Christ.

Homily “They said nothing to anyone”

Organ Response

Prayers

Call to Prayer

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People

L: Lord, in your mercy:

P: Hear our prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer – unison

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, the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Acclamation

L: With the faithful in every time and place, we praise with joy your holy name:

P: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty. The whole world speaks of your glory, O God most high.

Words of Institution

L: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration

Prayer of Thanks

Closing Hymn #220, Sing, My Tongue

Sending

L: When it takes hold, resurrection doesn't let go. It shakes the dead awake, it shakes the darkness from the light, it shakes the silence from our throats, and it wrestles death from all that is dying.

P: Let us go out into the world and, in the upheaval of resurrection, seek out the life of the Risen Christ.

L: Now our service is ended. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

P: Amen, and thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude