

Salem United Methodist Church

Easter Sunday April 5, 2026

GREETING AND WELCOME

Pastor Stacey: Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: Death has been defeated; the grave has lost its sting.

People: Love's redeeming work is done – Christ has won the victory!

Leader: Let us lift high our voices in praise,

All: For Christ is alive, and we are alive in him! Alleluia! Amen.

*OPENING MUSIC "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" #302 (v. 1-4)

UNISON PRAYER (in unison): **God of life and love, by your Word made flesh, you broke the power of sin and death, and through your cross and resurrection you speak love stronger than fear. By your Spirit, open our hearts and minds, that we may hear Christ's voice, believe your gospel, and follow in the way of self-giving love. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:1-18 NRSV

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

MESSAGE "Risen Today"

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

We believe this is God's table, and all are welcome. We invite you to join us in receiving God's gifts through the grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you prefer prepackaged wafer/juice, please ask an usher.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Merciful God, we confess that we have chosen selfishness over selflessness, darkness over light, and fear over trust. Too often we have ignored the message of the cross, forgetting that Jesus came not only to forgive our sins, but to save us from them. Forgive us, Lord. Turn our hearts again toward your**

wondrous love, and reshape us by the example of Christ, who gave himself for us all. Amen.

WORDS OF PARDON

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (pp. 15-16)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in 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 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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION "He is Exalted" #2070 (TFWS)

"All Hail King Jesus" #2069 (TFWS)

"We Will Glorify the King of Kings" #2087 (TFWS)

*DOXOLOGY #94

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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMITMENT (in unison): **God of new beginnings, accept our thanks and praise for feeding us at your holy table. We celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Savior and the new life that is ours by your gracious forgiveness and merciful redemption. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others. We offer ourselves and our gifts in the name of our Living Lord, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

*CLOSING MUSIC "Up From the Grave He Arose" #322

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm on your face. The rain fall soft on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*POSTLUDE

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Live stream notice: We are blessed to be able to live stream and record our 10:45 a.m. worship service. Anyone in the sanctuary during that time may appear on camera as part of the service and consents to filming. Our camera is directed at the front of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Stacey.

Welcome to Salem United Methodist Church! Thank you for joining us today in worship.

Our Worship Leaders Today:

Bob Kimball, Liturgist
Katy Stevens, Director of Music
Rev. Dr. Stacey Nickerson, Pastor (pastor@salemunited.org)

Mark Carter, Tech Team Director
Bryan Niles, Tech Team Producer

Our Call to Worship, Unison Prayer, and Prayer of Confession are taken with permission from "Why Did Jesus Have to Die? The Meaning of the Crucifixion" resources from Resurrection Church.

Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Junior Church begins after the Children's Message.

This Week (see our website for details: salemunited.org)

Monday 4/6 – No Aerobics

Monday, 4/6 7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)

Tuesday, 4/7 9:30 a.m. – Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)

Wednesday, 4/8 9:00 a.m. – Aerobics Spring Session begins (Hall)

Wednesday, 4/8 10:00 a.m. – Morning Bible Study (Office)

Wednesday, 4/8 6:30 p.m. – Vespers (outdoors; weather permitting)

Upcoming

Wednesday, 4/22 7:00 p.m. – Unified Leadership Board Meeting (Salem Room)

Monday, 5/4 – Mother's Day prepaid flower orders due (forms in narthex & at salemunited.org)

Next Sermon Series: We hope you can join us for our next sermon series, beginning next Sunday, April 12: "*We Are The Church.*" As United Methodists we share a vision of how we are to live in the power and promise of Jesus Christ's resurrection. Join us as we renew our calling to be the church today.

Mother's Day Flowers: We will once again be offering red geraniums for Mother's Day. Prepaid orders of \$5.00 per plant are due Monday, May 4th. Order forms can be found in the narthex or at salemunited.org. Flowers may be taken home after the 10:45 a.m. service on May 10th.

Salem United Methodist Church
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SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER FALLS, MD

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026