



*Although you have not seen him, you love him- 1 Peter 1:8a (NRSV)*



*Landowski, Paul Maximilien, 1875-1961, Leonida, Gheorghe. Christ the Redeemer*

# Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“MEDITATION ON BREATHING”

UU 1009

Breathe in, breathe out...

When I breathe in, I breathe in peace

When I breathe out, I breathe out love

GREETING

PRESIDER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

Leader: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

**All: God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.**

Leader: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

**All: In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.**

Leader: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

**All: For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.**

\*OPENING HYMN

“HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION”

UMH 529 (v. 1-3)

\*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

*Let us pray.* Risen Christ,

The world despised and rejected you

You responded with grace, humility, and welcome

The proud questioned your power, devised your death

You responded with peace, forgiveness, and new life

**Forgive us, Merciful One**

**Our arrogance, Our selfishness**

**Our scheming, Our violence**

**Forgive us, Merciful One**

**Make us more like you. Amen**

[Time of silent confession]

Risen Christ,

We claim your grace, your mercy, your forgiveness

We claim your resurrection power:

**Dying, you destroyed our death**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a non-contact way that's comfortable to you and your neighbor.

*Peace be with you!*

***And also with you!***

*Let us share this peace with one another.*

*Service of the Word*

**POEM [SAT. ONLY] "A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AFTER A DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE" ASHLEY F. JENKINS**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

Guiding God, send your Holy Spirit upon the reading of your Word that it may serve to show us the path of life and lead us into your presence. Amen

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**1 PETER 1:3-9**

**NRSV**

**SERMON**

**DR. BRIGIDDA BELL - 18 APR**

**DAVID PILTZ - 22 APR**

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

Spirit of life,  
In this season of renewal, of life bursting into bloom or song,  
remind us that we too have a hidden inner beauty,  
reflecting the image of your creative power.

**Yet for all the beauty that lives in us and among us-we doubt its realization. We become cynical about love; jaded about peace, less hopeful about the future. We roll stones across entrances; build fences instead of gates; close fists instead of open arms.**

Spirit of Resurrection, remind us of the power of hope to triumph over fear, the power of love to prevail over the horrors of hate, the potential for peace to be victorious over hostility.

**Spirit of life, we pray for a courageous and joyous faith, empowering us to participate with you in the creation of a new time of life, in which love, justice, beauty and peace are abundantly available to all. For this we pray. Amen.**

## *Service of the Table*

**OFFERTORY SONG**

**INSTRUMENTAL**

### **\*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider Christ is risen!

**People Christ is risen, indeed!**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them up to God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to God.

**People It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Glorious God, we give you thanks and praise, for all of creation sings, Christ is risen from the dead! He has burst forth from the tomb to break the tangles of despair and death. Love is come again. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the eternal chorus of rejoicing who forever sing:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power, Giver of life, heaven and earth declare your splendor. Praise, glory, and love are yours.**

All-embracing God, we give thanks for Jesus, the risen Lord of life, who rose victorious from the grave and made the whole creation new. He broke bread with sinners, fed the hungry, and healed the oppressed, then he poured out his life in death that we might live in love.

**Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again.**

We thank you that on the night before he died for us our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, *Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.* After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, *Drink this all of you: This is my blood poured out for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.*

**Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again.**

Recalling his life, death, and glorious resurrection, we offer you these gifts of bread and wine, and our lives in thanks and praise. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit upon the whole earth, that we may proclaim good news to all the world and rise together as children of your new creation. Then bring us to that new heaven here on earth, O God, where death and pain are no more and you dwell with us forever. **Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

**PRESIDER**

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty eco-friendly cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free.

Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

## COMMUNION SONG

### “BECAUSE HE LIVES (AMEN)”

#### Verse 1

I believe in the Son  
I believe in the Risen One  
I believe I overcome  
By the power of His blood

Let my song join the one that never  
ends  
(Because He lives)

#### Verse 2

Chorus  
Amen amen  
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives  
Amen amen

I was dead in the grave  
I was covered in sin and shame  
I heard mercy call my name  
He rolled the stone away

# Going Forth as the Body of Christ

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**PRESIDER**

**All**            **Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for the nurturing of our whole selves with this bountiful and sustaining meal. In the strength and power given to us by our partaking of these your holy gifts, make us one with you, Holy Three, and one with each other, as we go forth to boldly serve you with our whole hearts, minds, and strength. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

**“HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION”**

**UMH 529(v.4-5)**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**SENDING & POSTLUDE**

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**Cover Art:** Landowski, Paul Maximilien, 1875-1961, Leonida, Gheorghe. Christ the Redeemer, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

**Centering:** Meditation on Breathing UU #1009 Used with author's permission.

**Call to Worship:** Kimberly Bracken Long, ed., Feasting on the Word. Worship Companion, 1st ed (Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012), 139

**Prayers of Confession and Assurance:** Confession/assurance: Prayer of Confession and Pardon for Easter © 2022 Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia, [www.revlisad.com](http://www.revlisad.com)

**Poem:** Ashley Fitzpatrick Jenkins, Prayer of Gratitude After a Difficult Experience in Speaking Truth: Women Raising Their Voices in Prayer, Paige J. Boyer et al, eds., (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020), 202.

**Prayer for Illumination:** Kimberly Bracken Long, ed., Feasting on the Word. Worship Companion, 1st ed (Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012), 140.

**Prayers of the Community:** “Easter Prayer” by Kathleen Rolenz <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/easter>, accessed July 27, 2022.

**Communion Liturgy:** Kimberly Bracken Long, ed., Feasting on the Word. Worship Companion, 1st ed (Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012), 198-99

United Methodist Church (U.S.), ed., *The United Methodist Book of Worship* (Nashville, Tenn: United Methodist Pub. House, 1992), 59.

**Communion Song:** “Because He Lives” - CCLI Song # 7027887 © 2014 Capitol CMG Paragon S. D. G. Publishing, Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Gloria Gaither, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, William J. Gaither

**\*The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.**

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**THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:**

*To serve the universal church of our Creator.*

*To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.*

*To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.*