

April 4, 2026
Easter: Death and Resurrection

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Worship: 10:00 AM

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EASTER SUNDAY

Today we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Death could not defeat him. Jesus lives! Our dissonance now is like those first disciples: What does this all mean?

1. GATHERING

Prelude (Geoff)

Call to Worship

All: Welcome relief!

One: Newfound joy is washing over this grief.

All: Welcome mystery. Welcome surprise!

One: Impossible reality—risen, before our eyes!

Opening Prayer

One: Listen. Do you hear it?

All: The sound of joy. Laughter breaking in.

One: Listen! It sounds like harmony.

All: Angels singing.

One: Why are you weeping? For the grief? For the beauty?

All: Jesus is risen!

One: Yes! And creation sings it. Yesterday's tears linger, as they must,

Congregational Singing (Cathy/Rachel)

All: Welcome Jesus, our Savior and Friend.

One: Welcome seeking and naming.

All: Welcome love without end.

All: but love is stronger than death.

One: Do you believe this? Listen, Jesus is speaking your name.

All: Our names—each one.

One: Like music of the soul. Can you hear it?

All: It is the sound of resurrection.

One: Let us worship the Risen One! — Amen

“Nations, like stars, are entitled to eclipse. All is well, provided the light returns and the eclipse does not become endless night. Dawn and resurrection are synonymous. The reappearance of the light is the same as the survival of the soul.” — Victor Hugo

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Leader: Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

"A rebirth out of spiritual adversity causes us to become new creatures." — James E. Faust

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: John 20:1–18

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, 12 and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni"! (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

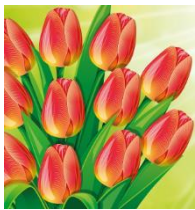
Confession

Jesus, you don't always show up where we expect or in the way we expect.

Once again, we feel for Mary, weeping by a tomb. In our grief, we assume that the lost is lost forever.

"Tell me where to go!" we say. "Tell me how I can find that piece of what was to cling to a while longer."

And we don't even realize you are there—that you have been there right in front of us all along—until you speak our name. As if to say, "I'm here." As if to say, "I love you" and promise: "This is not the end." You are.



Sermon: "Resuscitation Or Resurrection?"

"Resuscitated life is when one is restored to one's former life and health, as is the case with someone who has been clinically dead and is brought back to life. Resurrected life is not this. It is not a restoration of one's old life but the reception of a radically new life."

— Ronald Rolheisersee.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Cathy)

Reflections and Responses

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music (Geoff)

Sending Blessing

May you go from here, like Mary Magdalene, paying attention, being astonished, and then telling others about it.

Let us proclaim with Mary: We have seen the risen Lord! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

May you go with the risen Christ's peace surrounding you — *Amen*