

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God...  
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church...  
...When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.  
On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread...

When the supper was over he took the cup...

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

SENDING FORTH

**We respond to God's grace with our lives.**

MUSIC (Sung by all)

*In Christ Alone* ..... Hymn

\* BENEDICTION

Leader: O God, you have given us a vision of our risen Lord, through whom we may know the  
peace that passes all understanding, which the world can neither give nor take away.

**People: To Him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and  
might forever and ever. Amen.**

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Clergy ..... Rev. Ann Kovan  
Worship Director of The Well ..... Lance Hatchell  
Musicians ..... Warren Coker, Nathan Gause, Gregg Richardson, Kristy Roe, Ashley Taylor

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\*Stand as you are able



**EASTER**  
Sunday

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
March 31, 2024 • Florence, SC

# EASTER SERVICE – THE WELL

March 31, 2024 | 10:30 AM

## GATHERING

**The people come together in the Lord’s Name.**

### RESTORATION OF THE ALTAR

*The sanctuary is set from Good Friday. Christ had died, but was not risen. There was no church, no cross, no glory, no life after death. Today’s service will begin with the first song, and the altar and Communion table will be restored to new life as a sign of the Resurrection.*

### QUIET MEDITATION

#### MUSIC (Sung by all)

*Were You There?* ..... Hymn

*Had It Not Been* ..... Hymn

*\*Christ the Lord is Risen Today* ..... Hymn

### \*THE EASTER GREETING

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen, indeed!**

**All: Alleluia!**

### WELCOME

### PRAYER

**All: Loving, Powerful God, joy floods over our souls on this day! Christ is risen! Fear is vanquished! Open our hearts and our spirits to receive fully the joy which has been given for us! Let us celebrate the victory of Christ and the hope for the future! Amen**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ..... The Well Band

*I Believe*

### CHILDREN’S CHURCH DISMISSAL

(Children ages 3K to 1st grade are welcome to attend Children’s Church and may be picked up in room #145 or #147 after the service.)

### CONNECT & REFRESH

(Offering one another signs of reconciliation and love within worship is an ancient Christian practice. This is a time to greet others, both familiar and new, whether in your seat, at a table, or while refilling your cup and plate. The countdown on the screen will alert you when it’s time to return to your seats for the next act of worship.)

#### MUSIC (Sung by all)

*Death Was Arrested* ..... Northpoint Worship

## PROCLAMATION

**God’s word is shared.**

\*GOSPEL LESSON ..... John 20:1-18

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE ..... Rev. Ann Kovan

*Belonging: Belong, Behave, Believe*

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

**We respond to God’s word in worship.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

#### THE INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

#### CONFESSION AND PARDON

Christ, we come to the empty tomb,  
we meet our own death,  
we meet our own tomb, we meet our own emptiness.  
And we remember how we have treated other people—  
members of our family, friends, and neighbors.

**Lord, we come to your tomb,  
we meet a hungry world before us,  
the pain of starving children,  
the guilt of war on our hands,  
and we know that collectively, we share in those injustices.**

Lord, we come to the empty tomb,  
we search within ourselves, and we cannot escape what we are,  
people caught up in the pain of our own wrongdoing,  
for some a deep sense of loneliness  
and frustration of what we would be but are not.

**Lord, when we come to the empty tomb,  
we lay before you our pain,  
our emptiness and look to you for hope.**

People of God,  
why do you seek the living among the dead in an empty tomb?  
Are you afraid, are you uncertain, and are you uncomfortable here?

**Our wounds are deep,  
we have turned away from that man,  
we have broken with him  
and seek his fellowship.**

Do not dwell on your wounds any longer  
for he has risen to heal you,  
he has risen to forgive you;  
he has risen to change us all and bind us together now.  
Christ has risen to forgive us.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**