



East District Easter Worship
Desert Southwest Conference
The United Methodist Church



WE GATHER

Liturgy of Life

Rev. N. Susan Brims

Opening Hymn

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

UMH # 304

Easter people, raise your voices,
sounds of heaven, on earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter people let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us,
from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us
to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter,
with its resurrection song.
When in trouble, move the faster
to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the power of heavenly throngs.

**Words © 1979 The United Methodist Publishing House (Administered by The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN) All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

Centering our Hearts

Rev. N. Susan Brims

A Visual Word

The Wilderness is a Place of New Life – Resilient Life
Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

WE PROCLAIM

Prayer of Illumination

Rev. Kimberly Scott
Pastor at CrossRoads UMC

Gracious God,
You ask us to follow you, and we respond with logistical questions—
“How long? Where to? Will we return?”
You ask us to believe, and like Thomas, we ask for proof—
“Unless I see the nails in his hands, I cannot believe.”
Open our eyes as you open our hearts.
Unravel our doubt. Unravel our unbelief.
Lead us to rest in you.
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Scripture Readings

Pastor Daniel Gomez
Associate Pastor at Velda Rose UMC

“Peter bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.
Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.
-- John 20:5-7

Rev. Brenda Smith
An Ordained Deacon serving at Paradise Valley UMC

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with the others when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”
-- John 20:24 & 25

The Word Proclaimed
Unraveled or Unbound?
Rev. N. Susan Brims
East District Superintendent

WE RESPOND

Our Affirmation of Faith
Pastor Diamond Pate
Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Gilbert

In the places where we worship, let us now affirm our faith together, saying:

**I believe in God, the Great Sewer—
Who weaves us together in community,
Collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging.
I believe in the Holy Spirit—
Who hems us in before and behind,
Catching us when we fall and writing us into God's holy narrative.
And I believe in Jesus Christ—
Who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out,
refusing to disregard anyone as scrap.
I believe God has woven part of God's self into the fiber of our being,
Making us inherently worthy of love and belonging.
I believe the fabric of my life is weak,
That I am prone to error and need God's handiwork to remind me of love.
I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of different fabrics,
She is designed to be as diverse and beautiful as God's creation.
And I believe that when life unravels,
God is there to stitch my wounds together,
To hold me in the palm of God's hand, to tell me of love,
And to invite me into a new journey.
Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Prayer Song
Bless the Lord
The Faith We Sing # 2013

(Listen to piano play through the song once – then sing through twice)

**Bless the Lord my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul
who leads me into life**

WORDS: Jacques Berthier (Psalm 103:1)
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier and the Taizé Community
© 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (France) admin. By GIA Publications, Inc.

Invitation to Prayer
Rev. David McPherson
Director of Congregational Development

Pastoral Prayer
Rev. David McPherson
Director of Congregational Development

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Response to Prayer
Bless the Lord
The Faith We Sing # 2013

(Sing Once – slow down on the last line)

**Bless the Lord my soul,
and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul
who leads me into life.**

Offering
Invitation
Rev. Dave Wasson
Associate Pastor at North Scottsdale UMC

Offertory
Resurrection Power by Chris Tomlin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxH8Q8ue65o>

Prayer of Dedication
Rev. Corby Jo Johnson
Pastor at The UMC of Casa Grande

**God, you who have loosed that which had us bound,
And we are grateful for the freedom we have to live new lives.
As we make our offering to you this day,
we are mindful of the many ways our church
works to bring new life to others whose are
tied up in by illness, fear, grief, or economic pain.
Use not only our financial gifts,
use our voices, and our abilities, as well.
Weave what we freely offer this day
into the fabric of a just and peace-filled world.
This we pray in the name of the risen one:
Amen and amen.**

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

Invitation to be Witnesses of the Risen Christ

Rev. N. Susan Brims

Our time of worship draws to a close,
and we are called to be witnesses of the risen Christ.

During this next week send a letter to or call someone you love.
Write a thank you note and give it to the store clerk the next time you go to the store.
Post of picture of someone you admire and share what it is you admire about them.

When we return to more normal routines –
decide what gift from your experience of the COVID 19 reality
you will carry into a new day.

Dismissal and Blessing

Rev. N. Susan Brims

The Churches of the East District
Resurrection Power by Chris Tomlin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxH8Q8ue65o>

We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.

We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.

We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all in circles of our love.

Written by *June Boyce-Tillman*

A Special Word of Thanks goes to:

We are grateful to Mr. Steve Hilderbrand, who is the Director of Contemporary Worship at Central UMC in Phoenix. He led us in our opening hymn and the prayer song.

We are so grateful to Mr. David Wood, from GNTV, who recorded the speakers, served as technology guru and put the service into the proper format for use online.

We are grateful to the artists from A Sanctified Art LLC, who provided much of the liturgy and the intergenerational activity for today's worship service.

We are grateful for the pastors whose presence made this worship possible.

I want to share a word of thanks for the pastors and laity of the churches in the Desert Southwest Conference who have worked so hard to learn new technology, new ways of planning and leading worship and developed new ways of staying connected. In the process of dealing with the health and economic concerns encountered by the presence of COVID 19 you have also developed new ways to be in ministry with people who need to know the power God provides to bring hope and healing. What a gift all of you are.

May God continue to bless you and the ministries of the East District Churches.

In Christ's Service,

Susan

East District Superintendent

