



Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ

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Uniting Congregations for Ministry and Mission in Missouri, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee
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Worship Service for Sunday, April 19, 2020

Opening Music

“Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary”

Nate Fulk

*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving I'll be a living Sanctuary, for You.*

Call to Worship

Kathie Rainey and Cindy Birkner

Kathie Rainey

Christ the Lord is risen today! During the Coronavirus pandemic, we celebrate that no amount of suffering, fear, and even death itself can contain the inclusive love of Jesus Christ because Love Wins!

Cindy Birkner

Love Wins when healthcare professionals sacrifice their own wellbeing in order to care for COVID-19 patients.

Kathie Rainey

Love Wins when children create messages of hope on the sidewalks with chalk for their neighbors!

Cindy Birkner

Love Wins when grocery and delivery workers come to work so that we can be safe and stay at home!

Kathie Rainey

Love Wins when competing companies work together to research cures and develop tests for the health of us all!

Cindy Birkner

Love Wins when respite workers assist parents with special needs children so that they can continue to learn and grow.

Kathie Rainey

Love Wins when food banks ensure that everyone has enough to eat and prevention hotlines provide emergency support to the most vulnerable.

Cindy Birkner

Yes there is much to worry about, but today we celebrate that above all, Love Wins because Christ the Lord is risen today! Come, let us worship God!

Peace of Christ

Cindy Birkner

We begin our worship, not as strangers but as siblings together in God's creation. Although we can't share a hug, handshake, or elbow bump in person, we can wave to one another as our expression of the peace of Christ we share together. We invite you to think of your church members, adding in a few angels visiting your church for the first time. We invite you to wave to everyone and say, “The Peace of Christ be with you until we can be together in person!”

Time with the Children

Jeremy Force

We are invited to use our imagination to express our love for our neighbor! Loving our neighbor can come in bubbles we blow outside, messages we write on the sidewalk in chalk, songs we create and sing for our family, pictures we draw for our pastor, and notes we write and send to our oldest members. What are other expressions of love you have created during this time?

Hymn of Celebration

“Halleluja” (NCH236)

Ginny Brown Daniel

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-u-ja!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja!

Hal-le-lu-ja! Hal-le-lu-ja!

Reading of the Christian Scriptures**John 21:19-31****Nicole Havelka**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Parent has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them 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.'*

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,* the Child of God, and that through believing you may have life in Christ's name.*

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Homily**"Love Wins aka God is Not Through With Us Yet!"****Ginny Brown Daniel****Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer****Ginny Brown Daniel**

(please use the words with which you are most comfortable for the Lord's Prayer)

Offering**Nate Fulk**

You are invited to financially give in whatever expression you choose to the following: your local church, someone who serves you that can't work right now, and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).

Prayer of Dedication**Jeremy Force**

Living God, receive our gifts as expressions of our love for you. Bless these funds as they comfort the wounded, empower the fearful, and unite us to become a more loving creation for all. **Amen.**

Hymn of Parting**"I'll Fly Away" (NCH595)****Nate Fulk**

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away;

To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.

I'll fly away O glory, I'll fly away. When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away!

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away;

Like a bird from prison bars have flown, I'll fly away.

I'll fly away O glory, I'll fly away. When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away!

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away;

To a land where joys shall never end, I'll fly away.

I'll fly away O glory, I'll fly away. When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away!

Benediction**Ginny Brown Daniel**

Our hands are the vessels of God's love for all. I invite you to join in this interactive benediction as your commitment to continue Christ's message that Love Wins:

*Place your hands on the ground and say, “**May the love of Christ ground us for who and whose we are.**”*

*Place your hands in the air around you and say, “**May the love of Christ be shared with all of our neighbors near and far.**”*

*Place your hands on your heart and say, “**May the love of Christ created within me be fully lived for all to receive.**”*

*Place your hands in the air and say, “**May the love of Christ be pleasing and acceptable to God our Creator. This day and forevermore. Amen!**”*

This worship service was created by Ginny Brown Daniel as a gift of rest for all of our MMS Pastors after they led such meaningful Holy Week and Easter worship services last week. Our MMS Conference Staff are:

<i>Douglas Anders</i>	<i>Committee on Ministry Liaison for the Eastern and St. Louis COMs</i>
<i>Cindy Birkner</i>	<i>Youth Ministry Coordinator</i>
<i>Jeremy Force</i>	<i>Executive Director of Camp MoVal</i>
<i>Nate Fulk</i>	<i>Executive Director of Shannondale Outdoor Ministries</i>
<i>Nicole Havelka</i>	<i>Interim Minister for Search and Call Discernment</i>
<i>Jane Fisler Hoffman</i>	<i>Committee on Ministry Liaison for the Western COM</i>
<i>Tiffany Hudson</i>	<i>Communications Specialist</i>
<i>Kathie Rainey</i>	<i>Office Manager</i>
<i>Ginny Brown Daniel</i>	<i>Conference Minister</i>

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