

Sunday, April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CHOIR

Christ is Risen

Words and Music by Sally K Albrecht and Jay Althouse

Congregational responses in bold

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISIO DIVINA *Visio Divina, Latin for “divine seeing,” is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th-century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina through the use of visual imagery.*

Meet Me in Galilee by Hannah Garrity, hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay.

*CALL TO WORSHIP-

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried. But today...

We know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship our good-news Christ.

*OPENING HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today UMH#302

CALL TO CONFESSION Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember that the world did its worst to God. The world battered and bruised, betrayed and abandoned, crucified and buried our living God. And despite it all, Jesus still chose to return. Jesus rose again and immediately went to work spreading God’s love to the very people who had hurt him. So hear me when I say, there is nothing you can do that could keep God’s love at bay. With that good news mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus Christ loves, claims, and seeks us. Friends, let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **Gracious God, we want to be Easter people. We want to shout your good news from the rooftop. We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you. We want to follow the angels, who said, “Be not afraid,” but we are afraid. And we don’t know where to look. And we are worried we’ll say the wrong thing. So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people. We are best intentions and best laid plans. We are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias.” We are on our way, but we are not there yet. Show us how to embody your good news in this world. Show us how to be your Easter people. With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS Family of faith, even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias,” we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could

keep God's love at bay. So join me in this good news declaration: Through Jesus Christ, we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed. This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *As the children come forward, please sing "Jesus Loves Me" First Verse only UMH#191*

JOYS/CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

CHOIR: Mercy Tree
Words & Music by Krissy Nordhoff & Michael William Neale Arranged & Orchestrated by Nick Robertson

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1-10

SERMON The Good News is...Alive in the World

HOLY COMMUNION In the United Methodist tradition, we believe in a table open to all because this is the table of Jesus Christ. All who desire to deepen their relationship with Jesus and choose to partake are welcome and received with love. Our bread is gluten-free. If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate as you come forward to receive communion.

DOXOLOGY/PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN He Lives UMH#302

BENEDICTION/POSTLUDE *As the Postlude plays, let these final moments of worship center you to **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully,** and **Lead Courageously** this week*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT PORT BYRON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



United Methodist Church Mission: *The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

United Methodist Church Vision: *The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.*

Port Byron 1st UMC Mission: *The mission of the Port Byron First United Methodist Church is to center the congregation with God and Jesus Christ, to develop authentic relationships in a faithful community and communion of grace, and to honor God and all of Their creation.*

Stay Connected!

Facebook: Port Byron First United Methodist
Website: www.firstumcpb.org

Rev. Becky Butterfield, Interim Pastor

Birdsong

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Every morning the sun rises, majestic and steady.

She is greeted in all her strength with the joyous cacophony of birdsong. I like to believe this holy chorus is the birds telling each other—I'm here. We made it through the night.

You're not alone. What good, good news. I think the resurrection is a bit like that. God is here. We made it through the night. We are not alone. What good, good news.

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CHURCH STAFF

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Musicians: Melissa Battern & Glenda Belouski
IT Team: Chad Butterfield, Colin Larson, Sam Butterfield, Colton Heim, Kam Mahraun, & Nolan Peirce

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