



April 15, 2017

4:00 pm Easter Vigil Worship

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Nelson

320 W Seventh St, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

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Welcome to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Visitors are encouraged to fill out the Friendship Folder along with our members.

Hearing enhancement devices and **large print bulletins** are available from the ushers.

*All who choose may stand

FWS: Song printed in black Faith We Sing Hymnal **UMH:** Song printed in blue United Methodist Hymnal

Opening Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5

Common English Bible

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

The Word was with God in the beginning.
Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.

What came into being
through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

* **Call to Worship**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

One: Jesus Christ, our light is risen!

All: Sound the trumpet of salvation!

One: The light of Christ has conquered darkness forever!

All: The risen Savior shines on us!

One: Let this place resound with joy of the song of risen life!

All: We rejoice in song!

One: This is the night when all of Christ's believers are delivered from gloom, are restored to grace, and grow together in new life.

All: This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

One: Christ is that Morning Star, lighting this flame burning in us.

All: Thanks be to God.

* **Passing the Light #2173 (FWS)** Shine, Jesus, Shine

Welcome and Invitation to Mission

* **Hymn #322 (UMH)** Up from the Grave He Arose

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

* Doxology Hymn #95 (UMH)

Time of Prayer

Prayer Requests

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture

John 20:11-18

The Message

But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?" "They took my Master," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him. Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?" She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Mister, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him." Jesus said, "Mary."

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" meaning "Teacher!" Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: "I saw the Master!" And she told them everything he said to her.

Poem

Easter Vigil

George Marck

George Marck and Caleb Williams

Message

We Are Called by Name

Myra Moreland

Renewing Our Baptism

Congregational Response

Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true. Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

One: Easter people, you have died and risen with Christ to new life! Speak with me our traditional words of commitment, that we might live them out.

All: **We renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

* **Closing Song #310 (UMH)**

He Lives

Benediction

Postlude

"When you forgive somebody, when you are generous, when you withhold judgement, when you love and when you stand up to injustice, you are in that moment, bringing heaven to earth."

Rob Bell

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! Welcome to Royal Oak First. It was just nine short months ago that my family and I arrived in this community. This is our first Easter here and we could not be more excited about what the Spirit is doing right here!

We are connecting with new people. We are experiencing creative and inspiring worship. We are making children, families, and youth more central to our life together. We are committed to being a fully inclusive community - no matter your race, country, color or creed, no matter where you have been or what you have been through, no matter who you love or who loves you - you are welcome here. And we are making mission our mission.

One thing I have learned is that the people of this community are truly Easter people. For the people of Royal Oak First, Easter is more than just a day - Easter is way of life. You seem to believe that love is stronger than hate, that hope is stronger than despair, that grace is stronger than judgment, and that the power of life is stronger than the forces of death.

It is because of this amazing spirit that I want to invite you to do two things. First, I want to invite you to enjoy today's worship service. Get caught up in the music. Enjoy the beauty of the sanctuary. Be inspired by the message. Get caught up in the wonder and possibility of Easter.

And, second, I want to invite you to come back next week, and week after that, and week after that and week after that, to join us in making Easter a way of life. Come back and join us in feeding the hungry and caring for the homeless. Come back and love our kids. Come back and visit our seniors. Come back and help us make a difference in Detroit, Pontiac, Haiti, Lithuania, and right here in Royal Oak. Come back and help us build a community where All Are Welcome, especially those who are too often left out and left behind. Come back and help make Easter more than just a day! Come back and help us make Easter a movement that might actually change the world.

Happy Easter, Friends!

We are glad you are here! And we will be glad to welcome you back!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.