



FROM DEATH  
COMES LIFE,  
FROM  
DARKNESS  
SPRINGS LIGHT.



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
of Champaign-Urbana

*Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.*

## Celebration of Worship

**EASTER**

April 20, 2025

### Pre-service Singing

**Hymn #341** "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!"  
**Hymn #347** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

### Centering chimes

### Prelude

**\*Gathering Hymn #346** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

### \*Call to worship

Leader: The stone is rolled away.

**Congregation: Why look for the living among the dead?**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Congregation: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: No nonsense here! Christ challenges death, affecting the universe.

**Congregation: Christ challenges death, affecting each of us.**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### Welcome & prayer

**\*Hymn #333** "Low in the Grave He Lay"

### Children's story and offering for immigrant Services of CU

Congregation sings as children come forward (Voices Together #512)

**Scripture** Luke 24:1-12

### Confession

**ALL: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.**

One: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

**Many: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.**

One: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**Many: We linger in the shadows of fear and death, afraid to fully embrace the love you showed us through the resurrection.**

**ALL: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us fully live in the love you showed us in Jesus' death and resurrection so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.**

### Assurance

Leader: Now hear these words of assurance: God tells us that we are created in God's image. God created us for relationship with God and each other. In this, we know that God will never break our relationship. God's steadfast love endures forever.

### Sermon

**\*Response Hymn (insert)** "He Lives"

### Communion

#### Invitation to the Table

**Hymn #4** "Christ Is Our Cornerstone" (verses 1 & 3)

#### The Lord's Supper

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. The bread is gluten-free. The juice is grape juice (water is also available). Come and partake as the Spirit leads.*

### Prayer & Offertory (Ushers will pass the offering plates down the rows)

We will not have verbal sharing today. Please text your prayer request to Pastor Michael or write it on the yellow index card in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate during the offertory.

### Congregational Sharing & prayers (text prayers to Pastor Michael)

### Introduction of visitors

**Work of the church** (please come forward to the podium mic to make your announcement)

**\*Hallelujah Chorus** from "Messiah" by George F. Handel

### \*Benediction

*\*Stand in body or in spirit. Children are invited to wave the worship ribbons during the hymns.*

We welcome, without exclusion, all who seek God's love and grace...

You are welcome here, inclusive of gender, race, country of origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, socioeconomic status, family status, past imprisonment, education, citizenship status and physical or mental abilities. We encourage you to share in the rituals, fellowship and ministry of this congregation.

Hearing devices (T-coil and over-ear) and large print hymnals are available from the greeters.  
Childcare (birth – preschool) is provided in the nursery downstairs.