

From Broken to Blooming: The Living Cross

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

MEDITATION

“God can bring flowers out of stone.” –Martin Luther

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

L: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **P: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

“This Joyful Eastertide”

Arr: Arthur Somervell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Melessa Fox, Deacon

L: Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary was in the garden, carrying her grief.

All: We come carrying what is heavy in our hearts.

L: She came expecting death—but found life.

All: We come longing for new life.

L: She mistook him for the gardener—but perhaps she was right.

All: For God is always tending, always growing, always renewing.

L: Come, let us worship the One who brings life out of death, beauty out of brokenness, and hope out of despair.

All: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Life is blooming among us!

*SONG OF THANKFULNESS

“In The Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” 2x

Insert

RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

Melessa Fox, Deacon

L: Holy God, Gardener of our souls, you meet us in quiet places—in gardens of grief, in spaces of waiting, in moments when we do not yet understand what is unfolding.

All: And still—you are at work. You take what is barren and make it bloom. You take what is broken and make it beautiful. You take what feels like an ending and begin again.

L: This morning, awaken us—to the life rising all around us, to the love that will not let us go, to the resurrection already unfolding in our midst.

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of life, you bring forth beauty from the soil, you turn seeds into blooms and sorrow into joy. Receive these gifts as offerings of gratitude and hope. Use them to bring life where there is need, healing where there is hurt, and hope where it feels lost. Like flowers placed upon the cross, may what we offer today become part of your living work in the world and a sign that love is still growing, and resurrection is still unfolding. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

Black 433

***BENEDICTION**

SUNG BENEDICTION

“May you Go in Peace”

Choir & Cherub Choir

Words/Music: Gene Grier, Lowell Everson

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah! Chorus from the Messiah”

George Frideric Handel

Congregation is invited to sing with the choir.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!

Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Passion Play Reader, ; Choir, Linda Thomas, Joyce Kenneally, Meg Tivey, Kay Clark, Malcolm Donald, Alan King, Chris Polloni, Clifford Moore; Junior Choir, Bea Hatch & Keira Murphy; Bell Choir, Betsy Woodley, Lisa Allen, Robert Nelson, Margaret Tivey, Stephanie Miles & Jean Swarz; Cherub Choir; Hospitality & Food donation, All Church Easter Breakfast

Leading worship today: Rev. Christina Williams, Minister; Stephanie Miles, Music Director; Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director; Melessa Fox, Deacon