



THE TOMB IS EMPTY, THE DAY IS NEW

EASTER SUNRISE

NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 20, 2025 | 7 AM

An Open and Affirming Congregation

A WISE for Mental Health Congregation

Mission: To love God and all our neighbors as God loves us.



CELEBRATING RESURRECTION

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP, PLEASE SILENCE YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

PRELUDE

Music for the Risen Christ

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The Goodness of God
Rebecca Richardson, soloist

Ce Ce Winans

OPENING ACCLAMATION

*OPENING HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
All creation, join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!**

EASTER PRAYER

MUSICAL RESPONSE

The Lord's Prayer
Rebecca Richardson, soloist

Albert Malotte

SCRIPTURE

John 20: 1-18

SERMON

It Starts In the Dark

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams



*CLOSING HYMN

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

HYMN TO JOY

**Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled- Jesus
Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia to the Triune Majesty!**

*BENEDICTION Pastor: The sun has risen, the Lord has risen. So together let us say...

All: Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed!

*POSTLUDE

PARTICIPATING IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP SERVICE:

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister
Bradley Van Houten, Executive Director
Joel Van Houten, Production Specialist
Chris Riley, Production Specialist
Lincoln Townsend, Production Specialist
Clayton Townsend, Production Specialist
Drew Townsend, Production Specialist

Rebecca Richardson, soloist
Benjamin Fairfield and David Dash, trumpets
Kirsten Mahoney, horn
Stacy Kastner, trombone
Robert Kastner, bass trombone

USHERS: John Ballew (Head Usher), Kathryn Bettis, Jim Borden, Bill Durell, Becky Earney, Bob Nordland, Hank Temple and Sandy Terry

JOIN US FOR OUR EASTER SERVICES, TODAY AT 9 & 11 A.M, IN OUR SANCTUARY!

Our Easter Egg Hunt will take place following the 9 a.m. Easter Service, all children are welcome!





NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Traditional Church
for Progressive People

Naples United Church of Christ strives to show that actions speak louder than words. Our Core Values are: Open and Affirming, Mission-Driven, Powerful Worship, Continuing Generosity, Caring Ministry, Hospitable Fellowship.

We are an **Open and Affirming Congregation**, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, including persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status, and faith background. Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are proud to be one of more than 4,500+ congregations in the United Church of Christ community.

We are glad you are here! You can dress comfortably and in a manner that makes you feel at ease. Whether it's casual attire or dressed-up, we're happy to welcome you just as you are. Please know that we livestream our Sunday morning worship services and subsequently post video recordings on our website and on the internet, including social media, for later viewing. By attending a service, you acknowledge and consent to appearing in these broadcastings, recordings and postings.

STAFF

Clergy Team

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister
markw@naplesucc.org

Darren Paquette, Executive Assistant
to the Clergy Team
darrenp@naplesucc.org

Music Team

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf,
Director of Music
becky@naplesucc.org

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist
alexandrac@naplesucc.org

Administrative Team

Tony Falco, Director of Technology
tony@naplesucc.org

Raymond Gangl, Custodian
raymond@naplesucc.org

Chelsea Godwin, Receptionist
& Membership Coordinator
chelsea@naplesucc.org

Yuliana Mercado,
Communications Specialist
yulianam@naplesucc.org

Jodi Nienkerk, Director of Financial
Operations
jodin@naplesucc.org

Brad Van Houten, Executive Director
brad@naplesucc.org

Program Team

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of
Christian Education
jeanne@naplesucc.org

Elena Fernandez, Nursery Caregiver

Jill Golle, Director of Community Life
& Programs
jillg@naplesucc.org

Susan Melick, Events Coordinator

The Bargain Box Thrift Store

Sandy Goldstein, Manager
sandy@naplesucc.org

Pastor Relations Team

Senior Minister:
MWpastorsupport@naplesucc.org

5200 Crayton Road, Naples, Florida 34103 | Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Mon - Fri | (239) 261-5469 | info@naplesucc.org



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