

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  
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Susan Melick, Events Coordinator

### The Bargain Box Thrift Store

Sandy Goldstein, Manager  
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### Pastor Relations Team

Senior Minister:  
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