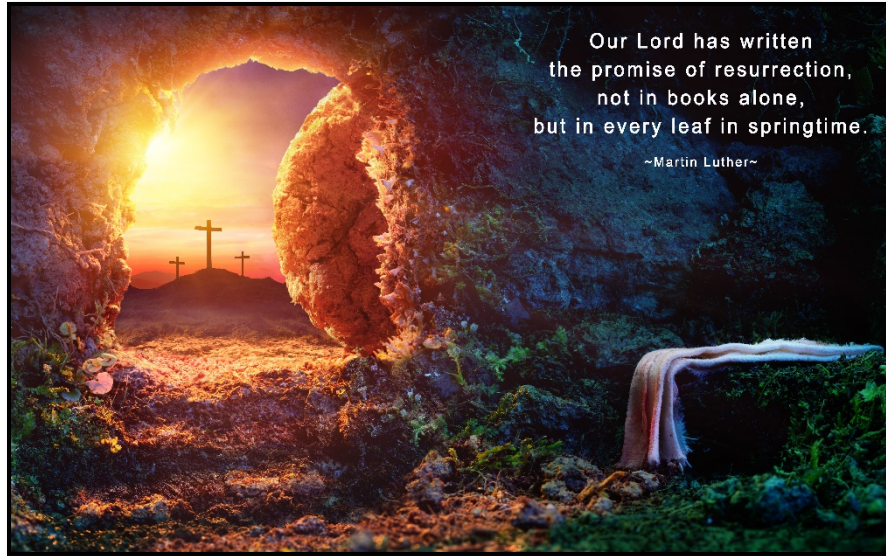


ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

EASTER RESSURECTION SUNDAY

APRIL 4TH, 2021 ☞ SUNRISE

SUNDAY BULLETIN



*Renewing: Is Anything too Wonderful for Our God?
New Life*

WELCOME to *your* faith community! We are happy to worship with you today and pray that your spirit will be blessed by our time together in the presence of God. If this is your first time at Zion, welcome! If you have been with us for some time, welcome!

Happy Resurrection Day! Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ is risen, risen indeed! Easter is upon us once again with the hope that it shouts forth. Last year's Easter was . . . wait for it . . . unprecedented. There was nothing like it before, and we hope there will be nothing like it again. This year we are better prepared with a vaccine beginning to offer new life, but many, like us, are still celebrating virtually with plans to resume in-person worship soon, yet another sign of new life. The long months of pandemic fatigue with social distancing and masks we can only hope will end sooner than later, but that glimmer of hope is there. It never left, and with Resurrection Day being here, we are reminded of it. Hope and new life abound through our God even when we do not see them. Even during virtual Easter worship services for Easter is in our attitude, our behavior, and our minds, not the grandeur or accessories we so often associate with it. Others have heard the story so many times that it no longer stuns them, nodding along as if we know what is going to happen. We see it as old news and not new or startling news. Easter morning so long ago was a morning of terror and amazement. Everything had changed for Jesus' followers who had just watched him be crucified. Newness brings terror, unfamiliarity. We too have entered a new world, a new reality, which can be terrifying at times, but we know that Jesus rose so we have hope! So let there be joy, hope, and new life because even though our foundations have been shaken, we continue move forward, because that is where the Risen One is going. He is going ahead of us so we need not fear. Let's keep moving forward, following him together, and see where He leads us, renewing us. Is anything too wonderful for our God? Come, let us worship the Risen Savior!

WE GATHER

Reflection Video

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship✦

"Alleluia! Christ is Risen Medley"

Call to Community

One: Where shattered hearts are made whole, where wounded souls are healed,
where life is stronger than death:

All: there, the stone has been rolled away!

One: Where the lonely become our friends, where a stranger is welcomed home,
where hope is stronger than despair,

All: there, we find Jesus walking.

One: Where closed wallets are opened, where the anxious find serenity,
where love is stronger than hate:

All: there, Jesus is opening our eyes.

One: The stone has been rolled away! Jesus is our companion on the journey!
Our eyes are opened to the needs of others!

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

One: Alleluia! Christ is with us!

Prayer of Resurrection Light

Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us

may your dawn beckon.

When fear paralyses us

may your touch release us.

When grief torments us

may your peace enfold us.

When memories haunt us

may your presence heal us.

When justice fails us

may your anger ignite us.

When apathy stagnates us

may your challenge renew us.

When courage leaves us

may your spirit inspire us.

When despair grips us

may your hope restore us.

And when death threatens us

may your resurrection light lead us. Amen.

~Silence Is Kept~

Words of Blessing

God's gift of grace and love which transforms our hearts and minds. That gift is given to us again, here and now. Be encouraged and may the peace of God be with you always.

Meditative Interlude†

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

WE MEDITATE

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NRSV)

Lector: Carroll Sager

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 16:1-8 (NRSV)

Pastor Katie

¹ When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man,

dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Message

Who Will Roll the Stone Away?

Contemplative Interlude ✧

"Sing with All the Saints in Glory"

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Give

On this day, we remember that Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb with the intent to anoint the crucified body of Jesus; and astonished, she finds an empty tomb where Jesus once laid. Now what? God's angels and the Risen Christ meet Mary Magdalene in her sorrow, and speak hope into her heart. For the Resurrection narrative reveals that love is alive and moves among us! The Risen Christ helps us to remember that despair is not the end of our journey. The Risen Christ also speaks of God's ever-present love, and gives the church resurrection hope. In that, as an Easter people, we manifest God's never-ending love in the world by the giving of our time, talents, and financial resources. For it is with Christ's limitless and restorative love, that we humbly and graciously offer back to God a portion of what God has given us.

Blessing Our Gifts

A Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we offer our gifts of time, spiritual gifts, and financial gifts as a sign of our love for you and the world. We ask a special blessing on these gifts where you meet us in our suffering, and raise us up, so that all may come to know of your abiding love.

**O God, we give these gifts as you have given them unto us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Reflection Video

"He's Still Risen"

Sacrament of Communion

Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion Invitation

Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love: We praise you for Jesus Christ, who reminds us that even in fear-filled days, cloaked with the powers of death, your eternal love arises, and never leaves us. For we rejoice with all your people and with the angels, because life is stronger than death! As we proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy is Jesus, God Incarnate, the Risen Christ,
whose mercy gathers us together in community,
whose grace meets us in our brokenness,
and whose loving faithfulness gives us renewed hope.**

The Story

In this meal, we remember Jesus, his promise, and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did; for our benefit.... In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

**We remember Christ's life of love, and friendship, and teaching,
We remember Christ's dying, and rising to life again.**

Prayer to the Spirit

Bless this bread and this cup, the wheat and the grape, the farmer and the harvest, the seed and the sower. These simple elements are shared in community, so that we may taste and see your goodness and become one body in Christ. For it is through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forevermore. Amen.

Prayer of Our Savior

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

"Up from the Grave He Arose"

The Prayer

O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life. Fed by your love, and strengthened by your life; we humbly accept your call to go into this world to live with hope, and to share your joy.

**You commission us to feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
and love as we have been loved.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Sending Forth

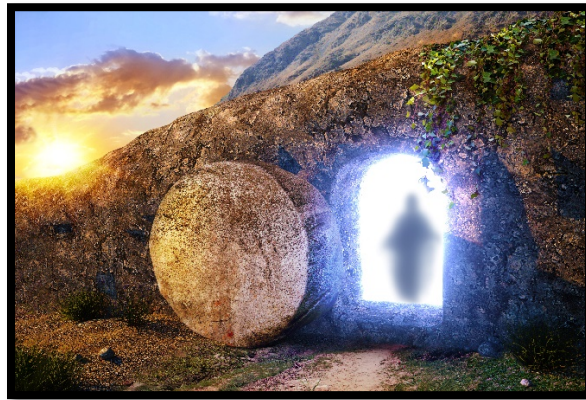
May God's abiding love and hope give us new life.
May God's unmerited grace and mercy keep us hope-filled.
And may God's restorative justice bring to us all, perfect peace.
For Christ is risen! Praise God!

Hallelujah!

Prelude to Service ✦

"An Easter Fanfare"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!





CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of April 4th



Sunday School & Fellowship Hour

There are no Sunday School Classes today or Fellowship Hour. Please celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with your loved ones safely. Children's Sunday School resumes April 11th at 9:45am virtually, and the Journeys Adult Class at 7pm virtually on April 11th. Virtual Sunday Fellowship will resume April 11th at 12:30pm.

Easter Flower Cross Outdoor Service

Our Easter Flower Cross Service will be at 10am today outside the church on N. Potomac Street. Please join us as we celebrate new life in Christ with a cross of Easter flowers as a visible testimony of our witness, reminding all who see it. We will also be dedicating the Easter cross in honor of Sylvia Ridenour and all loved ones who have passed this past year.

In-Person Services Resume April 18th

In-person worship services will resume April 18th with social distancing and face masks required. A livestream will be streamed during the service and available on-demand for any who cannot attend in-person.

Catoctin Association Spring Meeting

The Catoctin Association of the UCC will hold its Spring Meeting on April 17th from 9am to noon via Zoom. Plan to attend this meeting as a delegate for Zion or as a participant and be part of our association that we are covenant partners in Christ with. Contact the Church Office or Pastor Katie if you would like to attend so we can submit registrations before the registration deadline on April 12th.

General Synod 33



Mark your calendars for this special edition 2021 General Synod of the United Church of Christ, July 11th – 18th. This special edition general synod will be entirely virtual. Registration will open May 1st. Gathering under the theme: Rooted in Love, expect a vibrancy of spirit-led worship with prophetic preaching, music and art-filled experiences that will anchor us. Come, expecting to learn more and connect with the UCC through various opportunities and lend to the forward-momentum of the United Church of Christ. Let Pastor Katie know if you are interested in attending as a delegate for Zion or as a participant in general. Learn more at www.generalsynod.org.

Records from Last Week

Holy Week Services: 37 online views | **Soup Kitchen:** 32 meals served.



Joys & Concerns



Prayer Requests



Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Submit your prayer requests to the church office to be included on the prayer list. Join with us in prayer as we pray with our Zion siblings and their loved ones: [Kelly Bedard](#), [Holly Bell](#), [Naomi Bracket](#), [Linda Cantilena](#), [Kim & Bill Cook](#), [Crist Family](#), [Ruth Dwyer](#), [Elan Foutch](#), [Mike Heyser](#), [Jeanne France Hvidding](#), [Ann Kalinoski](#), [Kauffman Family](#), [Richard Lohman](#), [Mike Lorfing](#), [David Ridenour](#), [Betsy Roulette](#), [Donna Rae Seidel](#), [Diana Shafer](#), [Staci Shafer](#), [Darla Smith](#), [Robert Yeoman](#).

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week



Happy Birthday to **Aaron Kelly** (Apr 4th), **Tess Summers** (Apr 5th), and **Betsy Roulette** (Apr 7th), **David Rhodes** (Apr 7th), **Randy Hendershot** (Apr 9th), **Lynda Graves** (Apr 10th), **Kim Ridenour** (Apr 10th), and Happy Anniversary to **Julia and Dan Springer** (Apr 9th)! May this year of your life be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of *YOU*. We hope and pray that this year of your life is filled with an abundance of blessings, and for any times of trial, should any arise, that you find the perseverance and strength in Christ to prevail.



IMPORTANT DATES

Week of April 4th



Consistory Meeting

April 5th at 7pm via Zoom

Soup Kitchen

April 6th from 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome!

Social distancing and masks enforced. **Volunteers welcome!**

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

April 8th at 4:30pm via Zoom.

Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info.



Plan to Worship with Us Virtually Next Sunday, April 11th

www.zionreformed.church/sermons

Children's Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am

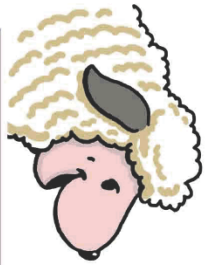
Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info.

Sunday Fellowship via Zoom @12:30pm

More info at www.zionreformed.church/fellowship.

Journeys Adult Class via Zoom @ 7pm

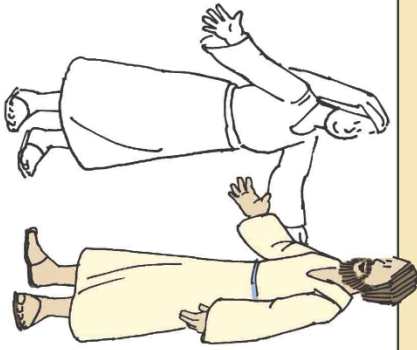
More info at www.zionreformed.church/adult.



Mary Magdalene turned around and saw Jesus! What did Jesus say?

Use this code to fill in the blanks.

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□	T	B	Y	P	L
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Ages 7+

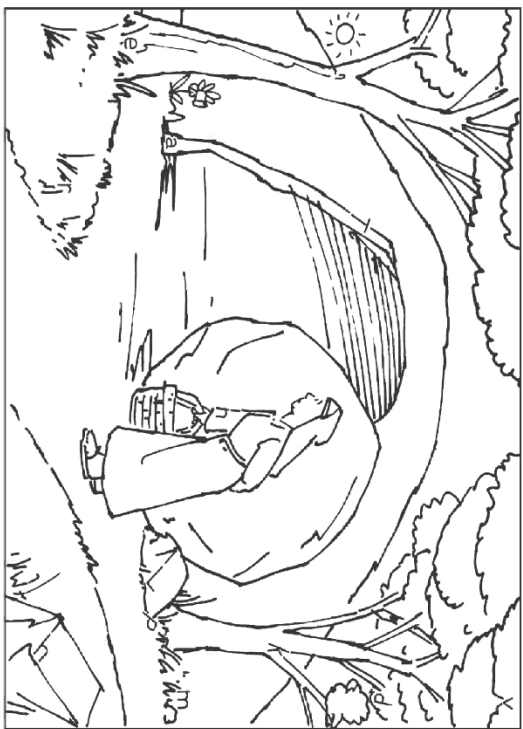
April 4, 2021 • John 20:1-18

The Resurrection of Jesus

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Jesus and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. What did she say?

Find the underlined letters in the picture below.

"They have taken my Lord, and we don't know where they have put Him!"

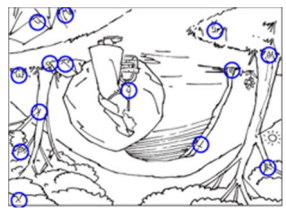


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Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ games.childrensbulletins.com

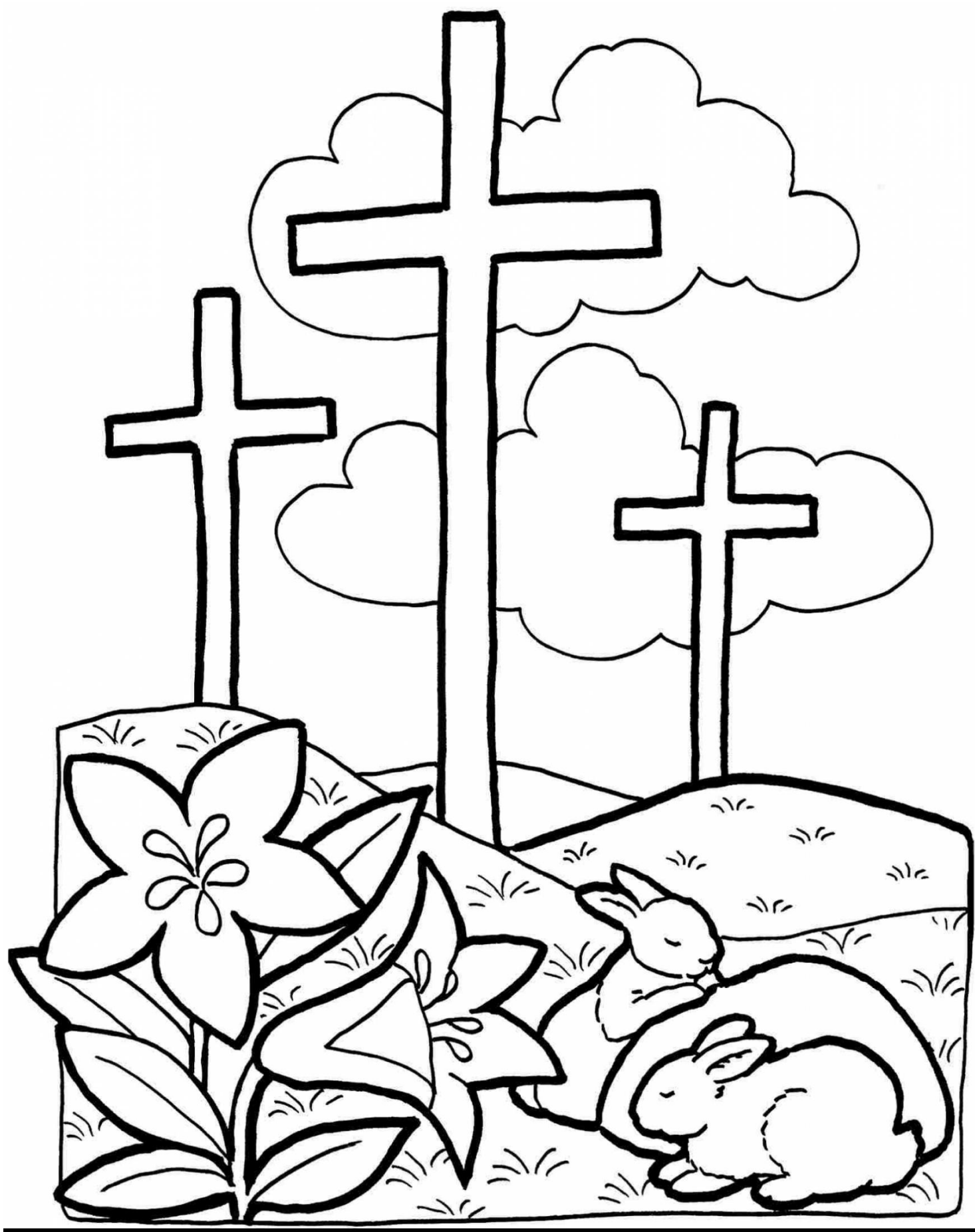
SECRET CODE!
NYMIDJ2

Find the underlined Letters:



Use this Code:

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me for I have not yet returned to the Father"



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Opening Video: ["Who Do You Say I Am?: Mary Magdalene \(Easter Morning\)"](#) by The Skit Guys (skitguys.com).

Opening Intro: "Shall We Gather at the River" – Lyrics by Robert Lowry (1864), ©Public Domain. Tune "Hansom Place" by Robert Lowry (1864), ©Public Domain. Performed by Clyde McLennan of [Small Church Music](http://www.smallchurchmusic.com) (www.smallchurchmusic.com). All rights reserved, used with permission.

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Contemplative Interlude: "Sing with All the Saints in Glory" – Lyrics by William J. Irons (1873), ©Public Domain. Tune, "Hymn to Joy," Ludwig van Beethoven (1824), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

Reflection Video: ["He's Still Risen"](#) by Freebridge Media, licensed by The Skit Guys (skitguys.com). Used with permission, all rights reserved.

Communion Interlude: "Up from the Grave He Arose" – Lyrics, "Low in the Grave He Lay," by Robert Lowry (1874), ©Public Domain. Tune, "Christ Arose," Robert Lowry (1874), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

Prelude to Service: "An Easter Fanfare" – Arrangement by David Paxton, ©Unknown by The Lorenz Corporation. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [The Lorenz Corporation](http://Lorenz.com) (Lorenz.com).

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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