

April 5, 2026

*Easter Sunday*

**Christ  
is Risen**

*The purpose of Groce United Methodist Church is to build the family of God through praising God, bringing others to Christ, teaching the faith, strengthening the fellowship, and sending forth in service.*

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**Jill Rhinehart—Pastor**  
**Becky Wilburn—Music Director/Organist**  
**Debbie Ross—Handbell Director**  
**Gayle Decker—Administrator/Treasurer**  
**Mariah Wright—Secretary**  
**Kelley Woehl—Youth Director**  
**Tammy Peek—Custodian**

# *Easter Sunday Worship Celebration*

April 5, 2026

**\* Where indicated, stand if you are able.**

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE

“All Glory, Loud and Honor”  
Arr. Smith  
Ringing God’s Praise—Handbells

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jill Rhinehart

\*CENTERING WORDS

Jennifer Prince

Leader: Easter teaches us that life never ends and love never dies.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Easter people, Christ is risen! God is doing a new thing!

**People: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!**

Leader: Life has conquered death! Love has overcome fear!

**People: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!**

Leader: God has transformed a dead end into a new start!

**People: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!**

Leader: Easter people, raise your voices! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

Leader: Let us pray. In thy hand, we see the whole cosmos, Heaven and earth reflect the mystery of your handiwork. In your hand, we see a little child, Men and women are recaptured by the event of Bethlehem. In your hand, we see the scar of the cross. Sin and death are vanquished by thy suffering on Golgotha. In your hand, behold a new light, Day and night are transformed in the glory of Easter morning. **Amen**

\*OPENING HYMN #302 (vs. 1-4)

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

ANTHEM "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name"  
*Fettke*

SCRIPTURE Matthew 28:1-10  
*Pg. 33-34*

MESSAGE "There They Will See Me"

RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS Ushers will come forward

OFFERTORY "Christ is Alive"  
*With gratitude and joy, O God, we bring these gifts for your use, even as we offer our very lives into your loving service. May our financial assistance and the ministries of this church bring new life to a hurting world in need of resurrection. May our gifts touch the lost and lonely with the assurance that in your arms, life never ends and love never dies. Amen.*

\*DOXOLOGY

CLOSING HYMN #431 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION  
*Go now in the blessing of God, who meets death with life, hatred with love, and hopeless endings with abundant possibilities, to build a community of life, love, and flourishing as Easter people, followers of the Risen Christ! Amen.*

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

POSTLUDE "A Joyous Acclamation"  
*Fettke*

*Our worship service has ended.  
Now, our service through worship begins.*

*As you leave the service an usher will give you a cross. Please only take one cross per person and if you have already received a cross at one of the Easter related services, please do not take another so we can make sure we have enough for everyone.*

## Easter Lilies

- Nancy Lewis—In Memory of Steve Lewis
- Carol Arrowood—In Honor of John & Tina Stovall
- Ed & Nancy Saxman—In Memory of our Parents—Edwin & Irene Saxman, Nevin & Donna Lambert
- Ed & Nancy Saxman—In Honor of our Children—Jim Saxman, Kristian & Elizabeth Underwood, and our granddaughter, Olivia Saxman
- Tim & Terri Kilmer—In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Burnett, and William Kilmer
- Carol Arrowood—In Honor of Jackie Davis
- Will & Michelle Troxell—In Memory of Dean & Mary Betty Troxell

- Carol Arrowood—In Honor of Fred & Debbie Bailey
- Jane Davis—In Memory of Roy & Margaret Chapman
- Diane McEntire—In Memory of David Silver, and Maxine Silver
- Pamela Rogalski—In Memory of Raymond John Rogalski
- JoAnn McGough—In Honor of the McGough family, and the Eagles family
- Carol Arrowood—In Honor of Alice Magee
- David Honeycutt—In Memory of Sondra M Honeycutt
- Janice Nelson—In Honor of John M Nelson
- Julie Arnall—In Memory of her grandmother, Lillian Hafers, and her grandfather, Louis Hafers
- Elizabeth Thomas—In Honor of Jennifer Prince
- Jim Ariail—In Honor of Carolyn Ariail
- Will and Michelle Troxell—In Memory of Roy & Ronnie Culp

## Announcements

Our Church Secretary, **Mariah Wright**, and her family are finally going home after losing their house in Hurricane Helene, thanks to BeLoved Asheville! To celebrate, we will be doing a simple "drop-in housewarming party" on **April 16th**. Stop by the church office between **12-4** with a gift, or just warm wishes. They are registered on Amazon under "Mariah Wright" and the registry name is "Going Home".

**Confirmation Sunday will take place on April 19.** This is a beautiful celebration welcoming newly confirmed members of the church. The worship service will include the Confirmation vows between the Confirmands and the congregation. It will be followed by a potluck lunch with special gifts for Confirmands, and the presentation of a Confirmation Class banner. Please be sure to attend!

Once again, Groce will have its **Italian Dinner** hosted by the UMM on **Saturday, May 9th, at 6 p.m.** with its lovingly prepared Italian menu and complemented by a talent show. Be on the lookout for more detailed information but be sure to save the date now!

## CHURCH CALENDAR: APRIL 5-11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>7:00:</b> Sunrise Service	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>10:00:</b> Parkin-sons	<b>10:00:</b> Balance	<b>10:30:</b> Isaac Group	<b>3:00:</b> Tailgate Market	
<b>9:00:</b> Agape Sunday School Class	<b>11:00:</b> Prayer Group	<b>10:30:</b> Craft-ers	<b>4:00:</b> Nurture	<b>1:30:</b> Tai Chi	<b>6:00:</b> Quartet	
<b>10:30:</b> Wor-ship Service	<b>1:00</b> Canasta	<b>1:30:</b> Tai Chi	<b>5:15:</b> UMM @ VRQ	<b>5:00:</b> Welcome Table		
No Youth	<b>3:00:</b> Handbells	<b>7:00:</b> SMBB	<b>5:30:</b> Choir	<b>6:45:</b> Cub Scouts		
	<b>6:00:</b> Guitar League		<b>6:00:</b> AA			
			<b>7:00:</b> Men's Chorus			