

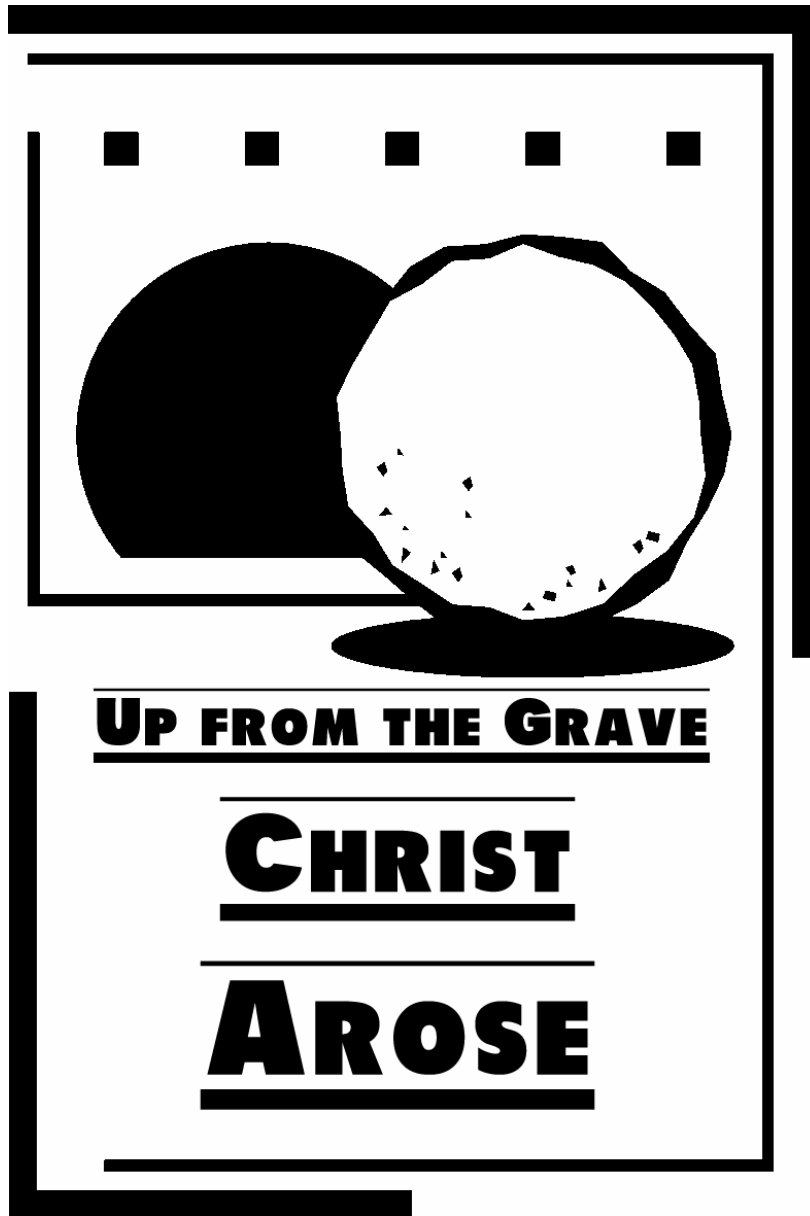
Laurel Heights

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

227 W. Woodlawn Ave., San Antonio, Texas 78212 • (210) 733-7156

Easter Sunday

March 23, 2008 • 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



*Our mission is to welcome and introduce all persons to Christianity in positive ways;
equipping, nurturing, and enabling believers to become disciples;
and sending them forth to relieve suffering and introduce others to Jesus Christ.*

Laurel Heights United Methodist Church
Easter Sunday
March 23, 2008

Gather to Worship

(*) Indicates the people standing, as able.

Words in **bold** are read or sung by all.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please wait until Offertory to register attendance and make meal reservations. Please turn off cell phones as their signal may interfere with our sound system.)

PRELUDE	<i>Choral</i>	Joseph Jongen
INTROIT	<i>Sing Out with Joy</i>	Mark Patterson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By God's great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

We have an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously!

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth: for the Lord has comforted his people.

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. King of kings and Lord of lords. Hallelujah!

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory.

* **HYMN 302** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

Confession and Pardon

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Almighty God:

Our hearts are full of joy at the new life which is ours today through the resurrection of your son, Jesus Christ. We know that his resurrection marks your eternal victory over the powers of evil, sin and death. We hear and experience and understand the Good News of the resurrection, but we often fail to respond to it. Our words and actions have not changed. It's as though Easter were just a fairy tale. There is no resurrection in us, and no evidence of new life. We are usually cowards when it comes to living and witnessing our faith.

Forgive us for our blindness and lack of faith, O God. Cleanse us of our sin and wickedness, and raise us to a newness of life in obedience to your will; for Christ's sake. Amen.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

THE RESPONSE *Agnus Dei*

O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent the only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us, and sent the Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, believe the Good News of the Gospel; if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Praise God for this gift of love to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

* PSALTER *Psalm 118* No. 839

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Apostles' Creed* No. 881

*HYMN 71 *Gloria Patri* GREATOREX

**Glorry be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen. Amen.**

* HYMN 308 *Thine Be the Glory* JUDAS MACCADEUS

The Word Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 10:34-43

EPISTLE LESSON Colossians 3:1-4

*GOSPEL LESSON John 20:1-18

SERMON *"Resurrection and New Life"* Rev. Jon D. Lowry

Response to the Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray also for Donna Kay Campbell, Church and Community Worker in New York.

LORD'S PRAYER

Welcome Home

Welcome to **Laurel Heights United Methodist Church** where our hearts, our minds, and our doors are always open. We are a growing congregation committed to upholding one another as we grow in faith. By joining this worshiping fellowship, you partner with us in an exciting and vital ministry of love and service that reaches out to this community and the world beyond in the name of Christ.

We invite you to join us in ministry through prayer, worship, study, and service. If you would like to unite with this congregation, please speak with one of the pastors during the last hymn, following worship, or call the church office weekdays, 733-7156.

As members, we profess our faith in Christ and pledge our prayers, presence, gifts, and our duty to uphold Christ's church. Like John Wesley, we say, "*If your heart is as my heart, give me your hand.*"

About Our Worship Service

- ❖ To preserve the reverence of the service, please refrain from using personal cameras & video equipment. Cell phones, pagers & other electronic devices should be turned off or set to "vibrate."
- ❖ Large print Bibles and hymnals are available. Please ask an usher.
- ❖ Restrooms are at exits halfway down each side of the sanctuary.

Jon D. Lowry, *Senior Pastor*
Raquel Cajiri, *Associate Pastor*
Norman Roe, *Associate Pastor*
Jerome Malek, *Music Director*
Sharon Boland, *Christian Education Director*
Sandra Jones, *Youth Director*
Jennifer Halteman, *Youth Choir Director*
Judy Davis, *Community Outreach Coordinator*
Susan Holloway, *Super Adult Program Director*
Elizabeth Woods, *Wesley Nurse*

Those Serving Today

ACOLYTE, **Alexis Jones** (11:00); SOUND, **Webb Myers**
LEAD USHERS, **Harold Snyder** (8:30) **Richard Chandler** (11:00)
GREETERS, **Molly Walden & Birdie Towery**
COUNTERS, **Richard Dugger & Dave Saylor** (8:30)
Dave Saylor & John Evans (11:00)

Parents of Young Children

Children's Worship Packets are available on Sundays for your child's learning and enjoyment. Children are welcome and encouraged to remain in worship; however, we do offer these alternatives:

Ages 6 Weeks – Pre-Kindergarten: Nursery care is available.

Ages 5 – 3rd Grade: Except on Communion Sundays, little ones may (after the Children's Lesson) follow the Cross out to Children's Church.

For the safety of all children, please remember that it is important that children are **supervised by a responsible adult at all times**.

A rocker is available in **Mann Chapel** for moms and dads with small babies requiring immediate attention. Please be advised that the floor and carpet in **Mann Chapel** often contain sand, particles of food and other small objects a child may swallow. For the safety of your child, please DO NOT take your walking or crawling toddlers into **Mann Chapel**.

