

Easter Sunday – April 12, 2020
Pastor Shane Russo
Liturgist: Carmen Russo



Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Though darkness seems to envelop us.

Jesus breaks through with a word of peace.

Fears are banished!

Hope is more than restored.

Rejoice! The Lord is with us!

We rejoice in the peace and blessings he brings. AMEN.

*Hymn *Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord*

#3008 TFWS

Pastoral Prayer

Break through our darkness and fears, Lord. Let the light of your salvation and hope shine on us, in us, and through us, that healing and hope may abound in your world.

Gracious Lord, Easter was such a high point. We walked through the weeks of Lent and then boldly marched with Jesus into Jerusalem. Our steps

hesitated and faltered during Holy Week when we ate with our Lord and then ran from his crucifixion. It was so hard for us to really believe in the miraculous event of Easter when our beloved Lord was raised from the dead. We, like Thomas, wonder if it was real or something made up from desperate longing. Help us to listen to your words with our hearts and our ears. Remind us that the Lord brings his peace to us all. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Honoring God with our Tithes and Offerings and Praises

Invitation to give

Give online at www.sebringumc.com

Hymn *More Precious than Silver*

#2065 TFWS

Scripture 1 Peter 1:1-13 (The VOICE translation)

1 Peter, an emissary of Jesus the Anointed One, to God's chosen people living as aliens scattered *among the unbelievers* in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. **2** *I am sending this letter to those* who have been selected and destined by God the Father and made holy by *God* the Spirit that you may be obedient to Jesus the Anointed and *purified* by the sprinkling of His blood. May grace and peace beyond all reckoning be yours.

3 Blessed is God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One! Because He has raised Jesus the Anointed from death, through His great mercy we have been reborn into a living hope— **4** reborn for an eternal inheritance, held in reserve in heaven, that will never fade or fail. **5** Through faith, God's power is *standing watch*, protecting you for a salvation that you will see completely at the end of things. **6** You should greatly rejoice *in what is waiting for you*, even if now for a little while you have to suffer various trials. **7** *Suffering tests* your faith which is more valuable than gold (remember that gold, although it is perishable, is tested by fire) so that if it is found genuine, you can receive praise, honor, and glory when Jesus the Anointed, *our Liberating King*, is revealed at last.

8 Although you haven't seen Jesus, you *still* love Him. Although you don't yet see Him, you do believe in Him and celebrate with a joy that is glorious and beyond words. **9** You are receiving the salvation of your souls as the result of your faith.

10 The prophets who spoke of this *outpouring of* grace upon you diligently searched and inquired *of the Lord* about this salvation: **11** to whom and to

what time was the indwelling Spirit of the Anointed referring when He told them about the suffering of the Anointed and the honor that would follow it? ¹² The Spirit revealed to them they were not serving themselves but you. And you have learned from those who told you the good news by the Spirit that was sent down from heaven. Even the heavenly messengers would like to explore this news.

¹³ So *get yourselves ready*, prepare your minds to act, control yourselves, and look forward in hope as you focus on the grace that comes when Jesus the Anointed *returns and* is completely revealed to you.

Sermon

Suffering Sucks

Hymn *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

#420 UMH

*Benediction
Going Forth Song

Thank you for joining us in worship today!

The lyrics and music to today's hymns can be found by clicking this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jXov906hsjEWWp1ZPAVcl9MHhIKk81gR>