RESURRECTION WOMEN

A SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

Women’s Division
General Board of Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church
The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

RESURRECTION WOMEN
A SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

This spiritual growth retreat focuses on theology of mission. It is designed to increase understanding of and commitment to God’s mission to women, children, and youth. Materials have been developed by the Women’s Division and are available for use as indicated on the list of Resources at the end of this participant’s manual.
Hallelujah, Christ is Risen!

Charles Wesley

S T Kimbrough, Jr.
arr., Mary K. Jackson

Refrain

Hal-le-lu, Christ is risen! Now the stone’s rolled away.

Fine

Hal-le-lu, Christ is risen! Proclaim the news today!

1. More courageous than the men, when Christ his breath re-
2. Women first the news proclaim, know resurrection’s
3. Joyful tidings of their Lord these messengers pro-
4. O might I like them now hear, these witnessesthere re-

C Am F C F C Em Am Fmaj7 G
signed, power, claim receive;

wo - men first the grace ob - tain their

Je - sus Christ to life re - stored, and 

emp - ty find the se - pul - chre, and

C Dm A/C# Dm C F E Am

C

lives par - don thro' won - der and to die no more. his name! be - lieve!

F Dm/G G7 C C/E F
SESSION 1

OPENING WORSHIP

HYMN SING
All hymns used in the retreat are listed in the “Resurrection Women Sing” section of this manual. In most cases, words are included with the source of the music noted. (If words are not included, you will need to refer to the songbook or hymnal.) You are encouraged to purchase Global Praise 1 and Global Praise 2, if you do not already have these books.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

One Voice:
“Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King! The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find; none other is so loving, so good, and kind.”

All Voices: Thank you God! Jesus Christ does live today!

HYMN:
“Christ Is Alive” (page 54)

SCRIPTURE:
John 20:1-18
PRAYER:
Let us enter into a period of directed prayer.
If you want to share sentence prayers, please do so.

Dear God: We come to you with grateful hearts for safe travel to this place. We feel your presence and know you are in the hearts of all who are gathered here. We bring our concerns and joys regarding our loved ones at home... We are concerned about our world and pray for the leaders of all nations... Bless our units of United Methodist Women and our local churches... Give us open hearts and open minds to experience you in our midst this weekend... We pray especially for those who are listed in the Prayer Calendar for this day... Hear our spoken and unspoken prayers, O God, and give us boldness to pray the prayer you taught your disciples. “Our Father... Amen.”

HYMN:
“Jesu Tawa Pano” (page 53)

INTRODUCTION TO THE RETREAT
(You may want to take notes in the space provided.)

Why have we come? Why have I come?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What must we do, individually and collectively, to experience God’s presence during this retreat?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
COMMUNITY BUILDING

Step One:
Share in a group of six to eight persons what you would like them to know about your name. (Origin, family connections, nickname, etc.) After everyone has participated, recite this litany with each person.

I am (the name you want to be called).
I am a blessed child of God.

The group says:
You are (the name given).
You are a blessed child of God.

Step Two:
Move to a new group as directed.
Recall together biblical stories in which God or Jesus called persons by name.
(Share the litany above with everyone in the group.)

Step Three:
Move to a new group as directed.
Consider together the question:
What does it mean to participate in God’s mission?
(Share the litany above with everyone in the group.)

Step Four:
Return to your seat.
Everyone says aloud at the same time:
I am (your name). I am a blessed child of God.

**HYMN:**
“Jesu Tawa Pano” (page 53)

**INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION AND PREPARATION FOR THE RETREAT**

When I hear/see the word “retreat,” I feel…
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What I most yearn for in this retreat is…
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What I fear happening on this retreat is…
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What I hope will happen on this retreat is…
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
Read again what you just wrote. What surprises you about your responses?

Do your responses reflect the most important question in your life right now? How, or how not?

Complete the following sentence by formulating a compelling, positive, simple question on which you want to focus this weekend. Remember that an intention is a gentle way of giving meaning to an experience. Your question, hopefully, will help you focus on what is happening.

On this retreat, I intend to ask myself…

CEREMONY OF THE OPENING DAY OF THE RETREAT

Focus on the worship center that has been prepared with its colorful cloths and the symbols that will be added during the service.
HYMN:
“Be Silent” (page 47)

Leader:
Indeed, we are in a sacred space. God is here in our midst and in each of us. As we prepare ourselves spiritually for this retreat, we must leave behind the cares, concerns, and distractions of our lives. Reflect silently on what you are willing to leave behind so that you can truly be in retreat. (One minute of silent reflection.)

Speaker One:
I am willing to leave behind the distractions that come to me on my cell phone. I am going to place it on the altar as a symbol of my commitment to concentrate on God.

Speaker Two:
I am going to leave behind this clock. I place it on the altar as a symbol of my willingness to be in God’s time this weekend and not be controlled by clock-time.

Speaker Three:
I bring this pile of stuff to the altar. It is a symbol of the stuff that is whirling in my head and distracting me from listening to God.

Leader:
Think again about what you are willing to leave behind. Say it aloud. (All respond.) Say it again, a little louder. (All respond.)

Let us pray. Dear God: We are in your hands during this time of reflection and renewal. We trust that you will care for our concerns regarding family, friends, and work. We trust that you will be with us on this spiritual journey. Help us to center on you and on your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Leader:
This is indeed holy space. God is in our midst and in each of us. Are we ready to go into the unknown of this time of retreat? Do we have the tools we need?
**Speaker Four:**
I have a lighted candle as a symbol of my willingness to open my eyes, to open my heart, and to open my ears to God’s word. I place this candle on the altar and I also place it symbolically in my heart.

**Speaker Five:**
I bring this globe to the altar as a symbol of the world that God has created and is still creating. It is also a symbol of all God’s children in the continents and islands of the world. I must consider God’s entire creation on my journey of faith.

**Speaker Six:**
I bring these flowers (or this plant) to indicate my openness to new ideas, to new insights, and to fresh interpretations of your word.

**Speaker Seven:**
On this altar I place an open Bible knowing that God’s message of resurrection and love will guide me.

**Leader:**
Are we ready for this experience? What other tools or symbols of readiness do you bring? Please reflect in silence on these questions.
(One minute of silence.)

Name your tool or symbol aloud. (All respond.)
Say it again, a little louder. (All respond.)

Let us pray. Once again, God, we come to you with symbols of our willingness to be in your presence in a special way during this retreat. We trust that you will be with us in this experience. We trust that you will be waiting for each of us to open wider our hearts and minds. Give us insight and discernment skills. Be with us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**HYMN:**
“Jesu Tawa Pano” (page 53)
SESSION 2

MORNING PRAISE AND PRAYERS

HYMN SING

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CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, our Lord,

How majestic is your name in all the earth!
Your glory is chanted above the heavens
by the mouths of babes and infants;
you have set up a defense against your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
and mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them little less than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8
From The United Methodist Hymnal © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

HYMN:
“Morning Has Broken” (The United Methodist Hymnal #145)

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING:
Dear God, this morning we are thankful for this new day.
We are blessed with your presence and we thank you.

We thank you for health and healing…
We thank you for friends and families…
We thank you for food and shelter…
We thank you for the beauty of your creation…
We thank you for the resurrection of Jesus…
We thank you for all who have witnessed to that resurrection…
May our time with you today be holy and renewing.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE:
“Tino Tenda Jesu” (page 53)
HYMN:
“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (page 47)

BIBLICAL DRAMA

FIRST REFLECTION TIME:
Read the story of the Samaritan woman as found in John 4:3-42. Then reflect silently on the questions which follow the Scripture. You may want to write down some of your thoughts.

Jesus left Judea and started back to Galilee. He had to go through Samaria. He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews did not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here, when
the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then, his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a [Samaritan] woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps,’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:
How is Jesus’ humanity revealed in this story?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

16
When has Jesus shared with me “living water”?

What part of my life is dry and thirsty today?

Who do I see as the Samaritan woman, the outcast, today? How can I share the message of Jesus with this person/these persons?

HYMN:
“When, Like the Woman at the Well” (page 60)

SECOND REFLECTION TIME:
Listen to the reading of Mark 14:3-9.

“While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, ‘Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.’ And they scolded her. But
Jesus said, ‘Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.’”

PRAYER:
Thank you, God, for this courageous woman. May she serve as a model of commitment for each of us. Guide us when you demand of us risk taking and courage. Hear us in our prayers, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS TO SHARE IN PAIRS OR TRIOS:
1. Look at the two words “acceptable” and “appropriate.” What do they mean to you?
2. Can an action be acceptable and not appropriate? Illustrate.
3. Can an action be appropriate, but not acceptable? Illustrate.
4. What does the following statement say about mission and my involvement in God’s mission? “Appropriate actions in light of the Gospel are what we are called to take.”

HYMN:
“Break Open the Jar” (page 61)

THIRD REFLECTION TIME:
Share with your neighbor your thoughts on the following questions:

What would have been my reaction to the story?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

18
What questions would I have asked?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What would have been the determining factor for me to have believed the story?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
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HYMN:
“The First One Ever” (page 59)

FOURTH REFLECTION TIME:

UNISON PRAYER:
“God of grace,
you sent the promised gift of the Holy Spirit
upon the apostles and the women,
upon Mary the mother of Jesus and upon his brothers.
Fill your church with power,
kindle flaming hearts within us,
and cause us to proclaim your mighty works in every tongue,
that all may call on you and be saved;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  Amen.”

Laurence Hull Stookey

From The United Methodist Hymnal © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.
SILENT AND WRITTEN REFLECTION ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS/REMARKS

What is the role of Jesus’ followers/disciples/resurrection women reflected in the Bible stories we have heard?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Where do I see myself in the stories?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What challenges are there for my own faith?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

How does the gift of the Holy Spirit as a constant companion enable me to witness and to participate in God’s mission?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
What does this statement by Lesslie Newbigin mean to me? “The risen Lord gathers together his defeated and despairing disciples and sends them out to be the witnesses of the victory of the kingdom, to embody and to proclaim the rule of God.”

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
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______________________________________________________________________________

What are the characteristics of the reign and rule of God? Where do you see these characteristics in today’s world?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

SESSION 3

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

You may select one or more of the optional activities to do following lunch until the plenary begins at 2:30 p.m. Instructions and location of each activity will be given at the close of the morning session. All activities may not be included in your retreat, so listen carefully to your selections and location.

1. Individual Reflection Time

Included in this resource are several individual reflection pieces. You may choose one or more of these to guide meditation and prayer. This activity can be done at a place of your own choosing, and should be done alone.
2. Life-Mapping Activity
Included in this resource are the directions for looking at your spiritual journey. Life mapping focuses on you as a resurrection woman and your journey in the faith. This activity can be done at a place of your own choosing, and should be done alone.

3. Meditation Centers
Three rooms have been prepared that center on each of these three topics: The Cross, The Resurrection, and Pentecost. Included in each room are pictures, musical tapes, reading materials for meditation, Scripture references, etc., around the topic. You may choose to spend some time in one or all of the rooms. Do not have more than six persons in a room at a time. Silence is essential.

4. Labyrinth Walk
A labyrinth is a tool for meditation and reflection. It has been in existence for some 4,000 years and has become a symbol of life and wholeness. The labyrinth is often confused with a maze, which requires the solving of a problem/puzzle. In contrast, the labyrinth is a path into the center of the design and back out again. To enter a labyrinth is to embark on a journey that represents one’s spiritual journey. Along the way time should be taken for prayer for an open heart and a willingness to serve God. The labyrinth walk should be done deliberately and unrushed. It should be done with a mind open to the will of God. The labyrinth walk is a sacred journey.

5. Creative Expression
Various supplies for creative expression have been assembled. Included may be things needed for quilting, drawing, painting, pottery making, etc. Creativity can be used as a means of spiritual growth/meditation. You may choose to do an individual activity or you may want to work in groups of twos or threes. Your focus should be on the theme: Resurrection Women.

PLENARY SESSION
2:30 p.m.
GATHERING SONGS:
“He Lives” (*The United Methodist Hymnal* #310)
“Hallelujah, Christ Is Risen!” (page 4)

SHARING IN SMALL GROUPS:
About 15 minutes will be spent in small groups sharing some of your insights, learnings, questions, creativity, etc., from your optional time. You will not have to report back to the entire group.

DVD:
*Resurrection Road* (M3066 – Mission Resource Center.) A study guide is inserted inside the jacket of this DVD.

CLOSING HYMN:
“As a Fire Is Meant for Burning” (*The Faith We Sing* #2237)

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION 1

SCRIPTURE:
John 13:31-35
John 15:12-17
Matthew 5:43-48

READING:
“The love for equals is a human thing—of friend for friend, brother for brother. It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles. The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing—the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world. The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing—to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice, the love of the poor for the rich, of the black (person) for the white (person). The world is always bewildered by its saints. And then there is the love for the enemy—love for
the one who does not love you, but mocks, threatens, and inflicts pain. The tortured’s love for the torturer. This is God’s love. It conquers the world.”

Frederick Buechner

From The Magnificent Defeat by Frederick Buechner. © 1966 by Frederick Buechner, 3572 State Rte. 315, Pawlet, VT 05761. Used by permission.

**REFLECTION:**

What is my understanding of love?

Who are the people easy for me to love? Who are the people that are difficult for me to love?

How do I really feel about loving the “enemies” of the United States?

Who are “my enemies” and how can I show love for them?

**PRAYER:**

Dear God: You are a God of love and we are to be lovers as your followers. It is hard work to love some people who I see or meet every day. It is even harder to deal with enemies. I need your help. I come seeking forgiveness for the times I have not loved. I come seeking strength to do as you have commanded. In the name of Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

**INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION 2**

**SCRIPTURE:**

PAINTING:

Women at the Sepulcher by William Adolphe Bouguereau.
Used by permission. Source: www.wcg.org/lit/images/b9/def5.htm
REFLECTION:
Carefully study this painting.
Notice the placement of the hands of each woman.
What do their hands say about their feelings/reactions to the angel?
What about the expressions on the faces of the two women?
What is the meaning of the brilliant light within the tomb?
What would you have done?
What would be your expression, body position, etc.,
if you had experienced the same situation?
If you were to draw a picture of the Resurrection, what would you include?

PRAYER:
Thank you, God, for the brave women who went to the tomb early on that morning. May my devotion to you be as profound as theirs. May I witness to your presence in this world today as I participate in ministries with women, children, and youth in my home, my church, and community. Help me to become a resurrection woman. In the name of Jesus, I pray.
Amen.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION 3

SCRIPTURE:
John 20:1-23

WRITING:
“Success in the sense of growth in the number of committed Christians is not in our hands. It is the work of God the Holy Spirit to call men and women to faith in Jesus, and the Spirit does so in ways that are often mysterious and beyond any possibility of manipulation, or even of comprehension by us. What is required of us is faithfulness in word and deed, at whatever cost; faithfulness in action for truth, for justice, for mercy, for compassion; faithfulness in speaking the name of Jesus when the time is right, bearing witness, by explicit word as
occasion arises, to God whose we are and whom we serve. There are situations where the word is easy and the deed is costly; there are situations where the deed is easy and the word is costly. Whether in word or in deed, what is required in every situation is that we be faithful to him who said to his disciples: ‘As the Father sent me, so I send you,’ and showed them his hands and his side.”

Lesslie Newbigin in Mission in Christ's Way


**REFLECTION:**

What differences do you see in Jesus’ appearance to
Mary Magdalene and his appearance to the male disciples?
How is Mary’s attitude different from that of the other disciples?
How am I faithful to God?
Is it easier for me to be faithful in word, or in deed? Why?
How can I increase my faithfulness?
Where can I witness in word and/or deed?

**PRAYER:**

Thank you once again for the Resurrection and for all who have witnessed to it over the centuries. Increase my faithfulness to you, O God. At times, I get tired of being merciful and compassionate; at other times, I don’t want to speak the name of Jesus to others. Help me in my witness and may I always be open to the guidance of the Spirit in my life. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.
INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION 4

SCRIPTURE:
James 1:2-4
Galatians 5:22-26
Matthew 28:1-10

WRITING: ON JOY
“Joy is prayer, joy is strength, joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch many souls. God loves a cheerful giver [2 Cor 9:7]. She gives most who gives with joy...The best way to show your gratitude to God and people [is to] accept everything with joy. A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love.

Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ Risen.

We all long for Heaven where God is, but we have it in our power to be in Heaven with Him right now—to be happy with Him at this very moment. But being happy with Him now means loving like He loves, helping like He helps, giving as He gives, serving as He serves, rescuing as He rescues—being with Him 24 hours, touching Him in His distressing disguise.”
—Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa’s words. © 2010 Missionaries of Charity. Used with permission of the Mother Teresa Center.

REFLECTION:
What is the joy in your life today?
How would you describe joy?
How is joy a gift of the Spirit?
How do you react to Mother Teresa’s understanding of being in heaven now?
What must I do or be in order to increase my joy as a resurrection woman?
PRAYER:
I come to you, O God, with joy and thanksgiving, thankful for your gift of joy in and through the resurrection of Jesus. Help me to become a truly joyful person as I attempt to follow the example of Jesus in his service for others. There was joy on the morning of the Resurrection and may that joy be ever in my heart. Amen.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION 5

SCRIPTURE:
Psalm 41:1-3
Mark 4:21-29
Luke 13:18-21
Psalm 33

WRITING: IN SEARCH OF NEW RESURRECTIONS
We in the church are in danger
of becoming a tearless people,
unable to rage even in a starless abyss.
We have imitated a smiling society,
glossing over the hurt, the oppression,
the peacelessness on earth,
or we have become caustic
and cynical and despairing,
insisting on looking the other way
as our church members crawl to the altar,
the scraps of their lives in their arms.

We were created for covenant keeping
and yet, we are in danger
of becoming a blindhearted people,
buying into the system,
placing our hope with kings and corporations.
Have we not seen?
Have we not heard?

We persist in clinging
to the way things are,
or eagerly placing our faith
in the newest religious fad,
the latest book on how-to Christianity
(In ten easy steps),
or the current slogans
presented as though they were
the Word of God.
We are programming and papering ourselves
into perpetuity,
and rationalizing and excusing
our immorality.
We spend our energy in complaining,
gloomily forecasting our future together.
We panic for positions
in employment and committee,
with each special interest group
vying for first place in the kingdom.
Perhaps it’s time for remembering
that Jesus stood in the Jordan
to be baptized with the others,
long ago casting his lot,
not with the good church people,
but with the poor
wherever that poverty might emerge.
His name is Emmanuel,
and yet, individually and corporately, we have named him “GOD-WITH-ME”
Have we not seen?
Have we not heard?

In the light of the cross, the alternative is anything but hopelessness. On the contrary! There is every scriptural indication that we are called to change who we are into the kingdom of God. Where change is possible, new resurrections loom!

Ann Weems in Kneeling in Jerusalem, “In Search of New Resurrections”

REFLECTION:
How do I understand the Kingdom of God?
How do the Scriptures listed above help me?
How have I bought into the system in which we live?
What can I do to “buy out”?
What is holding me back from following God’s call to change?
What are some new resurrections that I think God might have in my life?

PRAYER:
Dear God, I have prayed many times, “Your kingdom come.” I am not sure now that I really know what it means, or that I believe that it is possible. Help me overcome my unbelief. If you “help” it, you “assist” it. And give me courage to keep seeking insight into the true meaning of your kingdom. I know you are with all of your children, so forgive me when I become possessive of you. You require much of me. I need your help to live up to your expectations. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.
INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION 6

SCRIPTURE:
Psalm 139

HYMN:
Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand
Time is filled with swift transition,
naught of earth unmoved can stand,
built your hopes on things eternal,
hold to God’s unchanging hand!

Refrain:
Hold to God’s unchanging hand!
Hold to God’s unchanging hand!
Build your hopes on things eternal,
hold to God’s unchanging hand!

Trust in Him who will not leave you,
whatsoever years may bring;
if by earthly friends forsaken,
still more closely to him cling!

Covet not this world’s vain riches,
that so rapidly decay;
seek to gain the heav’nly treasures,
they will never pass away!

When your journey is completed,
if to God you have been true,
fair and bright the home in glory,
your enraptured soul will view!

Jennie Wilson (1857-1913)

**REFLECTION:**
How does this psalm make me feel?
How comfortable am I with God knowing me?
In what ways has God shown love for me?
What about the future concerns me?
How can I bring my faith, God’s love, and my concerns together so that
I can truly say, “I am holding God’s unchanging hand”? 

**PRAYER:**
Yes, God, you are the holder of my hand and my guide for the future. It is difficult for me to
let go of my need to control, and let you be in charge. May I ever be alert to your many ways
of caring for me. Help me walk with you on my uncertain journey. Amen.

**INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION 7**

**SCRIPTURE:**
1 Corinthians 15:50-57
John 14:1-7
Matthew 27:62-66

**HYMN:**
**Hymn of Promise**
In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There’s a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there’s a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Words: Natalie Sleeth

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REFLECTION:
How do I understand death?
What are my fears, concerns, and hopes about it?
What caused the fear of the Pharisees and chief priests?
How do I understand the mystery of the resurrection of all believers?
How do the images of the hymn help me understand death and resurrection?
**PRAYER:**

O God, these are difficult concepts. Sometimes my faith is strong about heaven and resurrection; at other times, I have my doubts. Please help me diminish my unbelief. I am sure, though, that this is your mystery. Help me to let go of my concerns about death and resurrection. I will try to let you be in charge. I am grateful for your symbols of hope that do revive my spirit. In the name of the resurrected Jesus. Amen.

**LIFE-MAPPING ACTIVITY**

**Myself as a Resurrection Woman**

“To journey with God is to be at home with God”

You will need at least one sheet of paper and two colored markers or pencils.

**Steps in the activity:**

1. What are some of the places and events in your lifetime where you experienced spiritual growth? Write them down or draw symbols of those places and events on a piece of paper. How old were you then? If you remember the exact or approximate times, write them down also.

2. Respond to the following in writing, or by drawing:

   - Identify moments of power and powerlessness in your life.
   - Identify places and situations where you encountered problems.
   - Identify times in your life where relationships failed.
   - Identify moments of grief when loved ones/mentors died.
   - What were the physical, spiritual, and moral resources needed to cope with the above losses and solve the problems?
• What are some of the ways in which you work with mentors, friends, and networks to help you?

• How have the various situations in your life helped you to become a mentor/friend to others?

3. Connect all moments of despair and powerlessness with one of the colored pencils. Then, choosing a different color, connect all your moments that were filled with power and strength.

4. Reflect on the Cross of Jesus as you look at your moments of powerlessness. Reflect on the Resurrection of Jesus as you look at your moments of power and strength. Memorize the following verse from Philippians and make it your own, as you continue on your road with God.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
Philippians 4:13

LABYRINTH WALK

There is no right way to walk a labyrinth. You only have to enter and follow the path. However, your walk can encompass a variety of attitudes. It may be joyous or somber. It might be thoughtful or prayerful. You may use it as a walking meditation.

Adults are often serious in the labyrinth. Children most often run in and out as fast as they can in a playful manner.

When you walk a labyrinth choose your attitude. From time to time choose a different attitude. Make it serious, prayerful, or playful. Play music or sing. Pray out loud. Walk alone and with a crowd. Notice the sky. Listen to the sounds. Most of all, pay attention to your experience.

Some general guidelines for walking a labyrinth are:

1. Focus: Pause and wait at the entrance. Become quiet and centered. Give acknowledgment through a bow, nod, or other gesture and then enter.
2. Experience: Walk purposefully. Observe the process. When you reach the center, stay there and focus for several moments. Leave when it seems appropriate. Be attentive on the way out.

3. Exit: Turn and face the entrance. Give an acknowledgment of ending, such as “Amen.”

4. Reflect: After walking the labyrinth reflect back on your experience. Use journaling or drawing to capture your experience.

**LABYRINTH WALK**

If there is no labyrinth walk set up for your event, you can “walk” the labyrinth by using your finger or simply meditate on this image.
SESSION 4

HYMN SING

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VISIONS OF JUSTICE

Time will be spent in listening to the “Visions of Justice” segment on the CD “Make Plain the Vision: Songs of Women.” The following issues are addressed in this musical presentation:

- Slavery
- Women’s suffrage
- Labor organizing
- Legislative responsibilities of elected officials
- Civil rights movement
- Women’s movement
- Temperance movement

REFLECTIONS:
Identify the songs and the issues listed above.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
How is addressing these issues “witnessing to Jesus” and being in mission?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

GROUP SHARING:
What did the songs say to me? Which one(s) really moved me?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

How can music help to motivate people to be in mission?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Where, when, and how have I been involved in these or similar social issues?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
CHARACTERISTICS OF RESURRECTION WOMEN:

Write down your understanding of what a resurrection woman is like who is committed to participating in God’s mission and justice work. (One sentence only.)

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

In small groups, list the characteristics/attributes/attitudes of resurrection women who are committed to God’s mission. Put them on paper, so that the list can be shared with the entire body.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

PRAYING WITH ICONS:

Individual meditation on the icon. Have a group reflection around these questions in small groups and then together:

What do I see in the icon?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
What qualities are communicated by the icon?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

How do I see resurrection in the icon?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

CREATION OF AN “ICON COLLAGE”:
In a small group, create an icon collage that communicates the qualities of resurrection women in mission. You will incorporate pictures of yourself and others in your group, as well as pictures from around the world. Be creative. Icon creation is a spiritual discipline, so share with each other as you make your collage.

Silent meditation on the created icons, followed by sharing of insights in the larger group.

CLOSING PRAYERS:
Be quiet and center on God.

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER:
Let us pray for:
the people in this room;
our families and friends who are not with us tonight;
those who are hurting in mind or body;
all who are grieving; 
ourselves, that we might be open to the guidance of your Spirit.

**HYMN:**
“Day Is Dying in the West” (page 60)

**UNISON BENEDICTION:**
Grant us a good night’s rest so we may wake refreshed in the morning. 
Grant us the knowledge of your presence so we may commune with you. 
Grant us your peace so our minds and hearts may be attuned to you. 
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

### SESSION 5

**HYMN SING**

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**MORNING PRAYER**

Use the *Prayer Calendar* for today.
MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

In small groups, answer the question, “Where are resurrection women needed today?”

Make a list of 10 to 12 of these places/programs/issues/concerns, etc. Share in popcorn fashion with the entire group, as directed.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Pray in silence for the opportunities listed.

As you continue in prayer, identify your own point of witness/service. This will be something you feel you can do or be in the next six to twelve months. Write it down on the paper provided, as well as in this manual.

TOOLS FOR THE RESURRECTION ROAD:

Skits will be presented by small groups about each of the tools/resources listed below that are available to assist us on our journey.

• Bible
• Prayer, including the *Prayer Calendar*
• Daily time with God
• Bibliography on mission
• Reading Program including *Response* and *New World Outlook*
• Justice action opportunities
• Giving opportunities as a volunteer and through your financial resources
• Wesley’s list of disciplines, including fasting
• Supportive community
• Web site of United Methodist Women (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)
• Women’s Division (www.umwmission.org)
• On-Line Communities, Facebook, and Twitter
CLOSING SERVICE OF COMMITMENT

In preparation of the worship center, one member of each of the groups that worked on tools for the Resurrection Road will place a symbol of their tool/resource on the worship center during the singing of “Have Thine Own Way, Lord.”

CALL TO WORSHIP

As the women brought spices to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus, may we also be the bearers of compassion and care.

As the women who came to the tomb were witnesses of the Resurrection, may we also be witnesses.

As the women left eagerly to tell what they had seen, may we also be eager to share the love of Jesus that we have experienced.

As the Resurrection reminds us…
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

HYMN:
“Hallelujah, Christ Is Risen!” (page 4)

OFFERING:
During the singing of “What Gift Can We Bring,” each person will offer her point of witness/service in a manner determined by the leader.

SCRIPTURE:
Acts 2:1-12
PROCLAMATION OF POWER (IN UNISON):
Jesus’ crucifixion left us with sadness and sorrow, but his resurrection gives us hope and renews our faith. Pentecost and the precious gift of the Holy Spirit give us power for the journey. We have been saved by faith and are empowered to witness to God at work, in our lives, and in our world.

HYMN:
“For Sake of Life” (page 52)

SCRIPTURE:
John 21:1-17

Reader 1:
As news of the Resurrection spread, lies from the guards and the established leadership created confusion, but Jesus’ appearances and eyewitness accounts helped to dispel the falsehoods. Walking on the road to Emmaus, Jesus was not recognized, but welcomed as a stranger. His true identity became known in the breaking of the bread and in prayer. Whom do we welcome? Do we find Jesus in unexpected places?

Reader 2:
The disciples, who were fishermen, gathered together to go fishing. They were common folk in a common occupation. Their all-night efforts netted nothing. At sunrise, Jesus came to them on the beach. He met them where they were comfortable, in the profession from which they were called. Jesus gave them advice for catching an abundance of fish and then he made them breakfast. Do we meet people where they are? Do we understand their livelihoods? Whom do we invite to our breakfast table?

Reader 3:
Jesus met three people at their point of need. Mary Magdalene was distraught. When she thought Jesus’ body had been stolen, she had no hope of the Resurrection. Thomas was absent when Jesus made his first appearances and so needed proof to believe. Peter had denied Jesus before his crucifixion. Now he needed to know that Jesus forgave him. In
these encounters, Jesus brought hope, faith, and loving forgiveness. Whom do we know who needs these messages?

Reader 4:
We will share this morning a service of bread and water. These are simple elements, but essential to survival. They bring to mind the words of Jesus, “When I was hungry…” and “When I was thirsty…” Jesus also said, “I am the bread of life…” and “if you asked me I would give you living water…” Do we hear the voices of those who are hungry? Do we hear the voices of those who are thirsty?

SERVICE OF BREAD AND WATER

This morning, as we share bread and water together, let us quietly consider the Scriptures and questions voiced this morning. When sharing the bread, the person giving says, “When I was hungry…” The person receiving says, “You gave me something to eat.” When sharing the water, the person giving says, “When I was thirsty…” The person receiving says, “You gave me something to drink.”

HYMN:
“Lord, We Need Bread” (page 48)

CLOSING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

Like the disciples in Jesus’ day, men and women, old and young, rich and poor, tax collector and fisherman, we join in fulfilling Jesus’ invitation to be fishers of people. We offer ourselves to God as resurrection women—women who will share the message of Jesus’ love within our sphere of influence, through our point of witness and service. Empower us, O Holy Spirit, to be bold in the faith. Amen.

HYMN:
“Hallelujah, Christ Is Risen!” (page 4)
1. Be Silent
Be silent, be silent,
a whisper is heard,
be silent and listen,
O treasure each word!

Refrain:
Tread softly, tread softly,
the Master is here,
tread softly, tread softly,
he bids us draw near.

Be silent, be silent,
for holy this place,
this altar that echoes
the message of grace.

Be silent, be silent,
breathe humbly our prayer,
a foretaste of Eden
this moment we share.

Be silent, be silent,
his mercy record,
be silent, be silent
and wait on the Lord.

Words: Fanny Crosby, Music: William H. Doane
Global Praise 2 #2

2. O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
O for a thousand tongues to sing,
blessed be the name of the Lord!
The glories of my God and King,
blessed be the name of the Lord!

Refrain:
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
blessed be the name of the Lord!
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
blessed be the name of the Lord.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
blessed be the name of the Lord!
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
blessed be the name of the Lord!

He breaks the power of canceled sin,
blessed be the name of the Lord!
His blood can make the foulest clean,
blessed be the name of the Lord!

Words: Charles Wesley, stanzas, lines 1 and 3.
Refrain and Music: Ralph E. Hudson
Global Praise 2 #11
3. Lord, We Need Bread
Lord, we need bread that feeds us,
Lord, we need drink that heals;
We need a word that cheers us,
we need a life that endures.

Lord, give us bread that feeds us,
Lord give us drink that heals;
Lord, speak the word that cheers us,
Lord, grant us life that endures.

You are the bread that feeds us,
you are the drink that heals;
you are the word that cheers us,
Lord, you’re the life that endures.

Words: Hartmut Handt, Music: David Plüss

English translation, S T Kimbrough, Jr. Global Praise 2 #42

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4. Jesus in the Morning
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning, Jesus in
the noontime;
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes
down!

Praise him, praise him, praise him in the
morning…
Love him, love him, love him in the
morning…
Serve him, serve him, serve him in the
morning…
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning…

African-American spiritual

Global Praise 2 #53

5. Pray for Peace
Pray for peace, speak of peace, think of
peace, act for peace
and the peace of God is always with you.

Trad. Irish prayer, Adapt. and Music: Per Harling

Global Praise 2 #58

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6. In the Morning When I Rise

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

Refrain:
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You may have all this world, give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.

O when I come to die, O when I come to die,
O when I come to die, give me Jesus.

African-American spiritual
Global Praise 2 #86

7. Come, Lord Jesus

Come, Lord Jesus, come as foretold.
Come as a baby, each of us can hold.
Come as a mother, so tender and warm,
Come as a father protecting us from harm.

Come, Holy Savior, come as a light.
Brighten the darkness of a lonely night.
Chase away the shadows that haunt each troubled heart.
Bring a glow of love to a world that’s torn apart.

Come, Redeemer, come as our guide.
Teach us to lay all hates and fears aside.
Help us heal the wounds that come from pain and strife.
Lead us to the joy and the hope that brings new life.

Words and Music: Mary K. Jackson
Global Praise 2 #88

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8. Yo Quiero Ser (I Want to Be)
Yo quiero ser, Señor amante,
como el barro en manos del alfarero,
toma mi vida y hazla de nuevo,
yo quiero ser, yo quiero ser, un vaso nuevo.

I want to be, my loving Savior,
formed anew like the clay in the potter's hands.
Take now my life, Lord, transform, remold me;
I want to be, I want to be a brand new vessel.

Words: Isaiah 64:8, Music: Latin American
English translation, S T Kimbrough, Jr.
Global Praise 2 #98

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9. Nurtured by the Spirit
Nurtured by the Spirit, walking in God’s light we are open to the vision from above.
Sharing fruits of heaven, caring for the right we will walk with the mission of love.

We are the seeds, sown in weakness, raised in power, God, make us sprout.
We are in need of your Spirit, now’s the hour: God, send us out!

Words and Music: Per Harling
Global Praise 2 #115

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10. Nada te Turbe (Nothing Can Trouble)
Global Praise 2 #127
11. As Your Children, Lord
As your children, Lord, we are here, (3 times)
O Lord, we are here.

At your table, Lord, we are fed, (3 times)
O Lord, feed us here.

Fill our spirits, Lord, with your love, (3 times)
O Lord, give your love.

Make us faithful, Lord, to your will, (3 times)
O Lord, to your will.

Words: Anon., Music: African American
Global Praise 1 #5

12. Break with the Hungry Your Own Bread
Break with the hungry your own bread.
Speak with the speechless a kind word.
Sing with the sorrowful a song.
Share with the lonely your own house.

Seek with the hopeless a new goal.
Break with the hungry your own bread.
Speak with the speechless a kind word.
Sing with the sorrowful a new song.

Share with the lonely your own house.
Seek with the hopeless a new goal.
Break with the hungry your own bread.

Sing with the sorrowful a song.
Share with the lonely your own house.
Seek with the hopeless a new goal.

Words: Friedrich Barth, Music: Peter Janssens
English translation, S T Kimbrough, Jr.
Global Praise 1 #10

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13. For Sake of Life

For sake of life the face of truth will brighten.
For sake of life the seeds of hope will root.
For sake of life the way of peace will lighten
for those who dare to walk for sake of life.

For sake of life the fields are being seeded.
For sake of life there’s still growth in the earth.
For sake of life we’ll share with all that need it,
the bread from common soil for sake of life.

For sake of life a righteous wrath needs power.
For sake of life let streams of justice roll.
For sake of life the springs of joy will mother
the newborn child of hope—for sake of life.

For sake of life our God became an infant.
For sake of life he lived and died for all.
For sake of life the time of God is constant.
The kingdom is at hand—for sake of life.

Words and Music: Per Harling

Global Praise 1 #25

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14. I Believe in a God

I believe in a God, one only,
an artist who’s painting life.
With words and with colors all life
is formed by eternal light.

I believe in a God, one only,
a godchild of humankind.
With love and with truth he opens
eternity in my mind.

I believe in a God, one only,
one Spirit, a mystery,
that’s breathing with me for now on
and into eternity.

Words and Music: Tomas Boström

English translation, Per Harling

Global Praise 1 #35

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15. Jesu Tawa Pano
(Jesus, We Are Here)
Jesu tawa pano; (3 times)
tawa pano mu zita renyu.

Jesus, we are here; (3 times)
we are here for you.

Savior, we are here; (3 times)
we are here for you.

Spirit, we are here; (3 times)
we are here for you.

Words and Music: Patrick Matsikenyiri
Global Praise 1 #36
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16. Laudate Omnes Gentes
(Sing Praises, All You Peoples)
Global Praise 1 #43

17. Tino Tenda Jesu
(Thank You, Jesus, Amen)
Tino tenda Jesu. (3 times)
Hallelujah, amen!

Thank you Jesus, amen! (3 times)
Alleluia, amen!

Trad. Shona, trans. and arr. Patrick Matsikenyiri
Global Praise 1 #45
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18. My Lord! What a Morning
My Lord! What a morning,
my Lord! what a morning,
oh, my Lord! what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall,
when the stars begin to fall.

1. You will hear the trumpet sound…
2. You will hear the sinner cry…
3. You will hear the Christian shout…

to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall.

African-American spiritual
Global Praise 1 #48
19. Santo, Santo, Santo (Holy, Holy, Holy)
Santo, santo, santo.
¡Mi corazón te adora! Mi corazón te sabe decir:
¡Santo eres, Señor!
Holy, holy, holy.
My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you:
Holy are you Lord!
*Argentine Folk Song
Global Praise 1 #49*

20. Guide My Feet
Guide my feet while I run this race,
guide my feet while I run this race,
guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don’t want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand…
Stand by me…
I’m your child…
Search my heart…
Guide my feet…
*African-American spiritual
Global Praise 1 #68*

21. He Lives
The United Methodist Hymnal #310

22. Christ Is Alive
Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and dwell in every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
Till earth and all creation ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

*Words: Brian Wren, Music: Psalmodia Evangelica
The United Methodist Hymnal #318
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23. Surely the Presence of the Lord
The United Methodist Hymnal #328

24. Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely
dim
in the light of his glory and grace.

Words and Music: Helen H. Lemmel
The United Methodist Hymnal #349

25. My Hope Is Built
My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

Refrain:
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne!

Words: Edward Mote, Music: William B. Bradbury
The United Methodist Hymnal #368
26. Blessed Assurance
Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby
Music: Phoebe P. Knapp
The United Methodist Hymnal #369

27. Standing on the Promises
Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:
Standing, standing, standing on the promises
of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I’m standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,
standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit’s call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God.

Words and Music: R. Kelso Carter
The United Methodist Hymnal #374
28. Have Thine Own Way, Lord
Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Savior today!
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Hold o’er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

Words: Adelaide A. Pollard, Music: George C. Stebbins
The United Methodist Hymnal #382

29. Take Time to Be Holy
Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God’s children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

Words: William D. Longstaff, Music: George C. Stebbins
The United Methodist Hymnal #395
30. This Little Light of Mine
This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine,
this little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine,
this little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
Everywhere I go…
All through the night…
_African-American spiritual_
The United Methodist Hymnal #585

31. Here I Am, Lord
The United Methodist Hymnal #593

32. Morning Has Broken
The United Methodist Hymnal #145

33. What Gift Can We Bring
What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remember, rejoicing,
what song can we offer in honor and praise?
Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.
Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.
Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,
for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring,
the Word is our promise always, forever;
we rest in God’s keeping and live in God’s love.
This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remember, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!

_\textit{Words and Music: Jane Marshall}_
The United Methodist Hymnal #87

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34. The First One Ever
The first one, oh, ever to know
of the birth of Jesus was the Maid Mary,
was Mary the Maid of Galilee,
and blessed is she, is she who believes.

Oh, blessed is she who believes in the Lord,
oh, blessed is she who believes.
She was Mary the Maid of Galilee,
and blessed is she, is she who believes.

The first one ever, oh, ever to know
of Messiah, Jesus, when he said, “I am he,”
was the Samaritan woman who drew from
the well,
and blessed is she, is she who perceives.

Oh, blessed is she who perceives the Lord,
oh, blessed is she who perceives.
'Twas the Samaritan woman who drew from
the well,
and blessed is she, is she who perceives.

The first ones ever, oh ever to know
of the rising of Jesus, his glory to be,
were Mary, Joanna, and Magdalene,
and blessed are they, are they who see.

Oh, blessed are they who see the Lord,
oh, blessed are they who see.
They were Mary, Joanna, and Magdalene,
And blessed are they, are they who see.

The United Methodist Hymnal #276
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35. Day Is Dying in the West
Day is dying in the west;
heaven is touching earth with rest;
wait and worship while the night
sets the evening lamps alight
through all the sky.

Refrain:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of thee!
Heaven and earth are praising thee,
O Lord most high!

Lord of life, beneath the dome
of the universe, thy home,
gather us who seek thy face
to the fold of thy embrace,
for thou art nigh.

While the deepening shadows fall,
heart of love enfolding all,
through the glory and the grace
of the stars that veil thy face,
our hearts ascend.

When forever from our sight
pass the stars, the day, the night,
Lord of angels, on our eyes
let eternal morning rise
and shadows end.

Words: Mary A. Lathbury, Music: William F. Sherwin
The United Methodist Hymnal #687

36. When, Like the Woman at the Well
When, like the woman at the well,
I lived with broken dreams,
Christ came to me, good news to tell,
of everliving streams.

Christ knew my heart, my wayward ways,
yet gave me hope, not fear,
The God I once thought far away,
I could approach, draw near.

I learned I could forever live
and worship God aright,
could trust the power the Spirit gives
to guide me in truth’s light.

Each day I lift my cup above,
and I again receive
the living water of God’s love,
revealed for my belief.

Since now I am in grace immersed,
set free, forgiven, whole,
I share with those who are athirst
the well springs of my soul!

Words: Edith Sinclair Downing, Music: “Land of Rest”
A Season of Clear Shining
Words: Edith Sinclair Downing, 1992 - based on John 4:5-42.
37. Break Open the Jar
Break open the jar in the presence of Jesus
and set free its perfume of joy and delight!
Though others may scorn you for wasting
your treasure
Let love give you courage to do what is
right.

To lay up life’s memories in earthen
containers
allows dust to enter, and rust to increase,
Let each past achievement rise fragrant as
incense,
and make disappointments a ladder to
peace.

Fear not to break open the jar of new vision,
where wonder, adventure, and hope are
concealed;
through them, find fulfillment in serving the
Savior,
for in acts of beauty, fresh truths are
revealed.

Christ Jesus accepted the gift of the
woman,
whom he had unshackled from sickness and
sin.
Her fame he foretold, for he knew how she
loved him;
break open your jar, and let living begin!

Words: Rae E. Whitney, Music: “Kremser”
With Joy Our Spirits Sing

Words: Rae E. Whitney, 1994

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