

STAUNTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
*Worshipping Christ with Joy, Living Together in Peace,
and Serving the World with Love.*

11 a.m. April 5, 2026

***The Good News Is...
Alive In The World***

Gathering Music *Days of Elijah*
Let the Church Rise Insert

Prelude *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*
arr. Mary McDonald

Welcome and Life of the Church

****Call to Worship***

One: On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

Many: On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

One: On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

Many: But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

One: The good news is dancing!

Many: The good news is on the loose!

One: The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Many: Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

One: Let us worship our good-news Christ.

***Singing** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* HWB 280
(verses 1-4)

Poem *Bird Song* Bruce Bowman
by Rev. Sarah Speed

Choir Anthem *Lift High the Cross* arr. Hal Hopson
Emily Edwards and Carrie Finch-Smith, Handbells

Prayer of Confession

*Gracious God,
we want to be Easter people.
We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.
We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you.
We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid,"
but we are afraid.
And we don't know where to look.
And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.
So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.
We are best intentions and best made plans.
We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias."
We are on our way, but we are not there yet.
Show us how to embody your good news in this world.
Show us how to be your Easter people.
With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.*

Words of Assurance

*Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.
This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God.
Amen.*

Choir Anthem *Resurrection Joy* arr. Lloyd Larson

Unison Prayer for Illumination

*Holy One,
all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story.
All over the world, people are gathering
to hear how death lost its sting.
All over the world, people are gathering together,
praying for a glimpse of you.
So like our neighbors all over the world, we pray, be here.
Speak to us today.
Soften the calloused parts of our hearts until we can sense your
Holy Spirit in our midst once more.
With eagerness and hope, we run to the tomb. We sing alleluia.
We bow our heads.
We listen for you. Amen.*