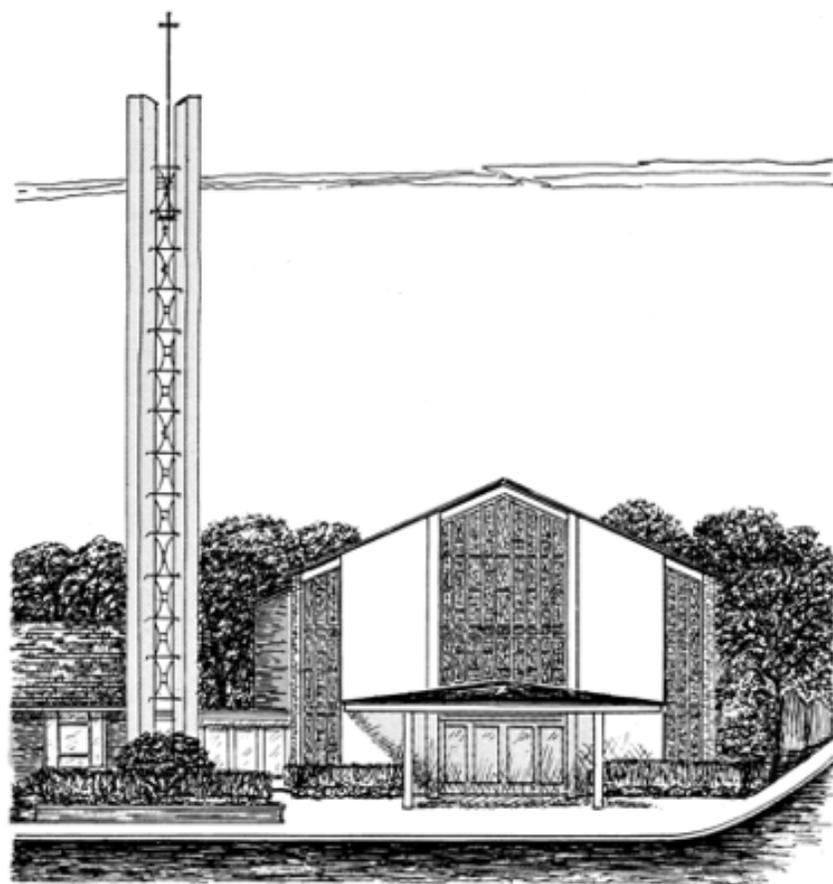


# Rockport United Methodist Church

April 11, 2021



R. Jerome Crowley

**Rockport United Methodist Church**  
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# Second Sunday after Easter

April 11, 2021

10am

## *Opening Ourselves to Worship*

### Prelude & Welcome

#### Call to Worship (People's response in **bold**.)

Leader: Life has been revealed to us in this Easter season.  
Gather once more to testify to life.

**People: We declare to each other what we have experienced.  
In community we find the life God intends.**

Leader: Early believers were one of heart and soul.  
We too, are called to find common ground in Christ.

**People: How very good and pleasant it is  
When kindred live together in unity.**

Leader: Peace be with you as we celebrate resurrection.  
Christ is with us to renew our faith.

**People: We are here to testify to God's grace.  
We will share our story and ourselves.**

Opening Hymn

“He Lives”

UMH #310

### Invocation

**You pour out upon us the oil of gladness, gracious God, as we gather in the name of our risen Saviour. You have given us the Word of Life; we have heard and seen your greatest of all gifts and testify to that experience by our presence here. Let Jesus Christ be known among us, in our conversations and in our prayers. May our thoughts center on the message that light has come to chase away the shadows, community has been born to remove our isolation, joy has been heaped upon us that we might share it with the world. Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, hear the Good News: Jesus Christ died for us while we were still sinners, and that proves God's love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen**

### *Hearing God's Word*

## The Children's Time to Lead Us

**Hymn** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Vs. 1,2 & 3 UMH #384

**Gospel Lesson** John 20:19-23

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Faithful Friends" Rev. Laurie Bruce

**Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed Page 881

**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.**

### *Transforming Our Lives & the World*

## Prayers of the People

**Ever present God, who by the power of the Holy Spirit transforms us individually and as a church to be your dwelling place, confront us here in the midst of our doubts, grant us your peace while we face our fears, and increase our trust that we truly embrace life in all its fullness. Speak to us now the word we need, empowering us to be a unifying presence in our broken world. Amen.**

## **Time of Silent Prayer**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Generosity and Offertory**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the free and abundant gift of grace you have given us in Jesus Christ. Let the simple gifts of our lives be a sign of our unending gratitude for your undying love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn**

**“Take My Life, and Let it Be”**

**UMH #399**

### **Benediction**

## **SERVING THE LORD AT ROCKPORT**

Pastor

Director of Christian Education/Youth

Lay Leader

Music Director/Organist

Church Office Administrator

Lector

Sound/Video

Rev. Laurie Bruce

Kira Cimino Holchin

Jim Spallino

Susan Shick

Sara Chapman

Kira Cimino Holchin

Scott Holchin