



**Easter Sunday
March 31st 2024**

Rev. Drew Terry
Pastor/Teacher

Jose Solórzano
*Music Ministry
Director*

Jade Terry
*Video Producer &
Sound Technician*

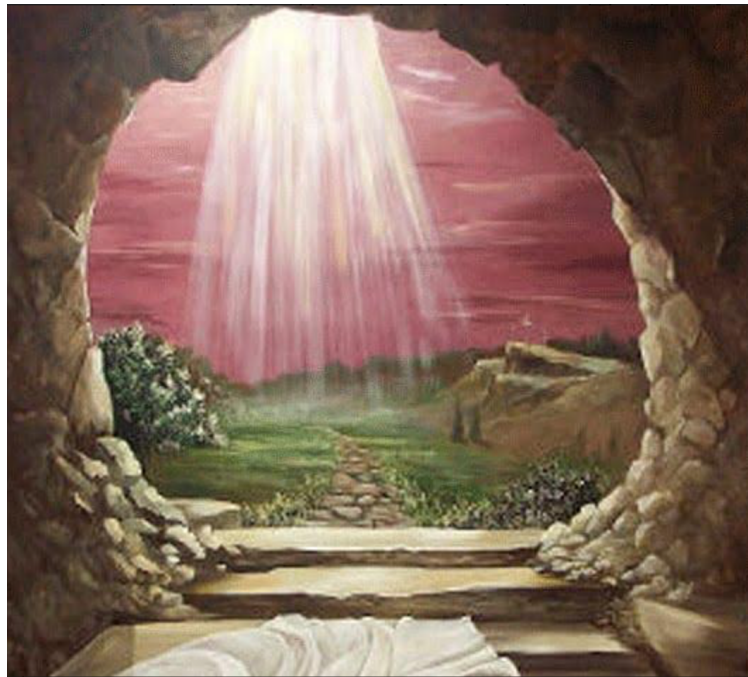
Council Members:

MaryAnn Warren
Moderator

Vera Shury
Vice Moderator

Jose Solorzano
Secretary

Priscilla Small



Oro Valley United Church of Christ

Our Mission

We are enthusiastic, spiritual followers of Christ practicing inclusive worship of God.

Our Vision

Through covenantal relationships we promote:

- Benevolence
- Mission and Outreach
- Justice for all

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Joyfully an Open and Affirming Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Drew Terry

Welcome & Special Thanks to Rollin Medcalf, violinist, for participating in OVUCC's joyous Easter Worship Service.

ICS Food Drive- Next monthly food drive will be April 7th – All non-perishable foods items are welcome, no glass jars.

Savaya Coffee Hours- Wednesday, April 3rd 10am – noon (the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month) Everyone, everyone, everyone is welcome to stop by Savaya and grab a coffee or tea, to chat with Pastor Drew and enjoy the fellowship. (11177 N Oracle Rd, Oro Valley, AZ 85737)

Hybrid Bible Study- Hybrid Bible Study will be held each Tuesday at 10 am in the fellowship hall. You can also join through Zoom with a link on our website or in the Wednesday newsletter.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

† Passing of the Peace

Rev. Drew Terry

(Stand as you are able in body or spirit and wave or send signs of peace and greetings of love to those around you. If you are able, wave to our camera in the back to send peace and love to those at home. For those at home, we invite you to wave back and send a message of peace via text, email or even a phone call to someone in your heart.)

† Call to Worship *(Congregation will sing)*

**Surely the presence of our God is in this place.
I can feel Your mighty power and Your grace.
I can feel the brush of angels' wings.
I see glory on each face.
Surely, the presence of our God is in this place.**

Pastor & Congregation will speak responsively:

One: We gather in the presence of God's love to celebrate the best love story ever told.

All: The Holy Story of the Risen Christ!

One: A story of the Risen Christ who came as a sacrificial lamb to heal a hurting world.

All: The Divine sign of God's love and grace.

One: The story of three women who rose early to care for Jesus' body in the tomb.

All: An act to honor God's loving presence sent to be among us.

One: These women arrived and saw an empty tomb; they were shocked and afraid.

All: They remembered the symbol of human shame of the old rugged cross.

One: But the story did not end with the crucified Jesus. An Angel of God appeared in the empty tomb, and their terror transformed into amazement.

All: God's love had once again been revealed.

One: The journey of the three women continued; they were asked to go out and spread the Good News of God's love, peace, and justice found in the Risen Christ! Today, we receive this Good News; Christ is Risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

† Opening Prayer

Rev. Drew Terry

Resurrecting God, Strengthen in us the will to go out, sharing Your Good News of Divine redeeming love. Guide us in telling the story of Your endless love through our words and deeds. Remind us of Your presence. Fill our hearts with Your ways of love that bring about peace and justice for all. With Your loving embrace, protect us in the face of terror and hateful actions. Bring us Your hope found in the excitement of eternal life and saving love exemplified in Jesus, the Risen Christ! **Amen!**

† Opening Hymn

“Christ The Lord is Risen Today”

NCH 233

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death is vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Pastor and Congregation

Redeeming God, we recognize that Your love for all creation is great and unmovable. All that we need on earth has been provided, and yet we struggle to share a portion of our blessings so that all might have enough. You have created an earth vast with land and sea. And yet, we embrace a narrative of scarcity. Believing that somehow there is not enough for everyone to be cared for. But the data proves otherwise. We know there is an overwhelming abundance of resources on the earth You created. Help us to choose a narrative of abundance over scarcity. Give us the strength to help make this world a better place by embracing Your agape love of equality for all creation. Let Your ancient story of love be our new, innovative, and transformative story of love. The kind of love that transforms hearts, O God, and leads us towards this new way of living. May this new life speak to the kind of prosperity that overflows with Your love of peace and justice for all people, everywhere!

Words of Grace¹

Rev. Drew Terry

God of Grace and Glory, We are humbled by your faithfulness and love. Even if our fears spark terror and doubt, you never leave us. There is no other love greater than yours. You call upon all of creation to spread the Good News of your love and glorious light. Reminding us that your love is sweeter than the honey in the honeycomb. Comforting us even in the bitterness of life as we embrace the loving assurance of forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, whose grace and mercy bless us still.

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith - adapted by Robert V. Moss
(All will recite together with Lay Reader, James Corcoran)

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

(Continued)

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness, declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His table, to join Him in His passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Drew Terry

(If you are writing a check, Payee must read: "Oro Valley United Church of Christ" – no initials or abbreviations accepted.)

One: Loving God, the abundance of Your generosity is exemplified in the dawning of the sun.

All: Thank You for the joy and hope of new mercies found in the morning sun.

One: Even in moments when we are showered by the rain, remind us that Your love never fails.

(Response on next page)

All: Rain down Your abundant love and redeeming grace upon us.

One: Let us give our offerings with generosity and joy to the One who has faithfully and generously given to us love, grace, and mercy.

Offertory "He is Lord" Jose Solórzano, Piano

† **Doxology** Tune No. 809

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving Lay Leader, James Corcoran

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful for Your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to You and Your beloved creation. **Amen.**

† **Scripture Reading:** Mark 16:1-8 Lay Reader, James Corcoran

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Empty Tombs and Resurrection Faith" Rev. Drew Terry

Prayer including prayers you have requested and A Minute of Silence (*Today you are invited to take your post it note and bring it forward to offer as a prayer during special music. You can stick the prayer notes on the white board up front.*)

† **Special Music** "I Come to the Garden Alone" OVUCC Easter Choir

The Lord's Prayer

Sung responsively with Denise Cochran

**Our Father
In heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom
And the power
And the glory are yours, forever
forever and ever**

**Our Father
In heaven
Hallowed be your name.**

Celebration of Holy Communion²

† Hymn

He Lives

TWC 248

I serve a risen Savior,
He's in the world today;
I know that He is living,
whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy,
I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time
I need Him He's always near.

Refrain:

He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me
and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives,
salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.

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.

Refrain

The Invitation

Pastor: The Resurrection has begun! The Day of Celebration is here!
Alleluia!

Unison: **We gather at God's table, in this sanctuary, and in every place where people seek to share in the Banquet of Life! Here we meet all who share with us the hope for healing, peace, and a brighter future! All who wish to receive the Divine gift of eternal love are welcome to eat and drink at God's table. Let us eat together.**

Prayer of Consecration

Pastor: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and the Church, Christ's body, is scattered, we are one in Christ. Whoever we are, where ever we are in life's journey, however we identify, these elements are set aside today to be a sacrament of God's love in us, around us, and always with us. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

Unison: **The One who is Love,
Violence, terror, and a large stone could not hold back
Your love. We come today to once again be filled with
Your words and promise, "Don't be afraid. Peace be with
you. Don't be afraid." Come to us, wherever we are and
send forth Your Spirit of comfort. Fill us once again with
Your presence so that we can continue to proclaim,
Alleluia!
Christ is risen!
Alleluia!
Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia!**

Words of Remembering

Pastor: Gracious God, we raise voices hoarse from shouting alleluias, we sing praises for the wonder of an empty tomb, we give thanks for
(Continued)

the gifts of life, of life that breaks the bonds of death. We sing songs of praise for the world You have given us, for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies. As the spring deepens and the earth thaws, as green breaks through the brown of winter, we sing songs of hope for new life springing from dead soil, for the promise held in every seed that is sown.

In a time of war, fear and loss we seek the words of Your angels and the comfort of the risen Christ, "Don't be afraid. Shalom. Don't be afraid."

People: **As people of faith we remember all those who courageously answered Your call of hope. People like Moses and Miriam, leading their people to freedom; like Sarah and Abraham, seeking a new life in a strange land; like Peter and Mary, proclaiming an empty tomb and life beyond the cross. We remember these and many others, named and unnamed, who have embraced Your life, Your hope, and moved into a new age. And we trust that in remembering and retelling their stories, we too can take the leap into New Life.**

Pastor: Deep among all those memories we remember the life of a Special One. Jesus, Child of Mary. Born of a woman and raised among people who struggled daily for life. Baptized by John, Jesus embraced the life to which You called. Jesus taught and preached a vision of a world where all divisions were broken down, where all had what they needed for abundant life, where the Reign of God was as real on earth as in heaven.

People: **And though the powerful of this world fought back, Jesus stood strong. When offered a chance to take the easy way Jesus overcame fear and instead prayed "yet Thy will be done." Even though they put Jesus to death You raised Christ to life, vindicating the vision and bringing hope and healing to the world.**

Pastor: Let us join together singing God's wonder:

Sung Response NCH #793 "Santo, Santo, Santo" ("Holy, Holy, Holy")

Traditional Brazilian

Santo, Santo, Santo, mi corazón te adora!

Mi corazón te sabe decir: santo eres Dios.

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores You!

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God.

(repeat)

Pastor: As we gather with all God's people and creation, we remember a story told mere days ago and yet also an age ago. We remember that Jesus gathered, as we gather, with his closest loved ones in an Upper Room to share the feast of liberation. And while sharing the ancient story of freedom, Christ called them to remember the promised freedom of God's power and presence. We remember that at that table he took the bread, gave thanks for it, blessed it, broke it and passed it among them saying: This is my body, broken by and for the world. Whenever you eat it remember me. Then later he took the cup of wine, blessed it and passed it among them saying: This is the cup of the New Covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it remember me and look toward the fulfilment of God's promise.

Blessing of the Elements

Pastor: God of Life, in the beginning Your Spirit hovered over the water, calling forth life, creating and inspiring. Send Your Spirit upon we who gather to share this meal, infuse this bread and this drink with the Spirit's power. As we eat and drink may we feel the power of Life Triumphant pulse in our veins, the fire of hope blaze in our hearts, and the joy of the Empty tomb dance in our souls. Let us know in all our hearts and all our souls and all our minds and with all our bodies that Christ who died is now alive!

Unison: Alleluia! Amen.

Sharing the Elements

(Everyone, everyone, everyone is welcome to celebrate this sacramental meal)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor tombs with stones and guards, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

**Unison: We have eaten, we have drank, we have embraced the beginning of the new age.
Grant, O God, that we who have gathered together on this Day of Resurrection, will move on as people of hope, people of life, people of Your love. May the meal we have shared today revive us in body and soul and energize us to share the Good News.
Christ is Risen!
Death is Defeated!
Life Wins!
Alleluia and Amen!**

† Hymn

Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem
I had my birth.

(Continued)

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he

I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John
They came with me
And the Dance went on.

Refrain

I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.

Refrain

I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.

Refrain

(Continued)

They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me -
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.

† **Benediction**

Rev. Drew Terry

Loving and Gracious God, we are grateful for Your Good News of loving abundance for all creation. Now, let us go out like the three women who experienced an empty tomb. Going out with the angels assurance let us dance into resurrection aware that where ever we go, whoever we are, whoever we become, whoever we encounter, the Risen Christ is waiting to meet us!

† **Congregational Response:**

Tune No. 840

**God be with you till we meet again,
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Scripture readings: Inclusive

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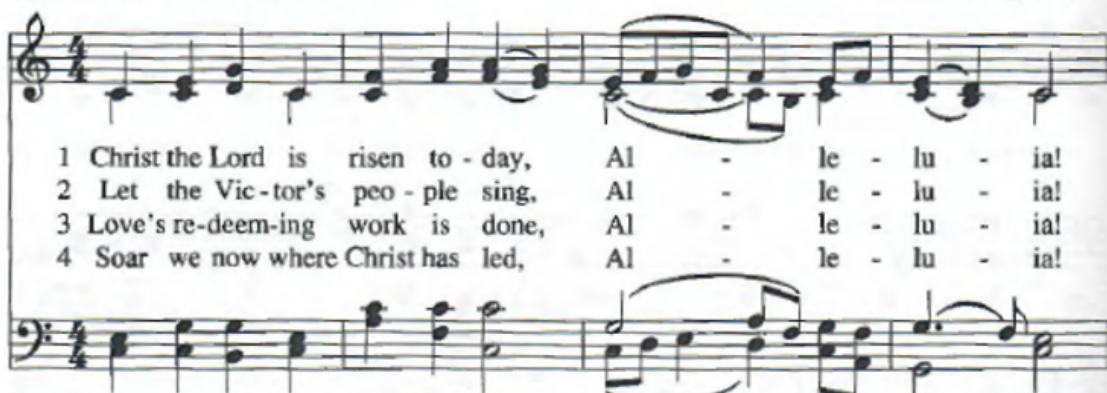
¹ <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-b-march-31/>

² <https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/black-history-month-1>

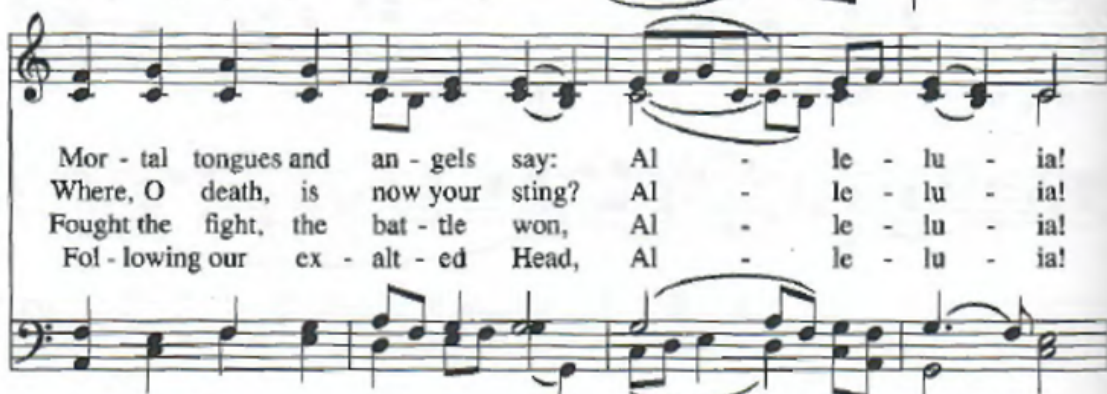
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.



1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!



Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

248 He Lives

"I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever!" Rev. 1:18



1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
2. In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
3. Re-joyce, re - joyce, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing



I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er oth - ers say;
and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!



I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast,
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find,



and just the time I need him he's al - ways near.
the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at last.
none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.



RESURRECTION

Refrain

He lives, he lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day!
He lives, he lives, he lives, he lives,

He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.

He lives, he lives, sal - va - tion to im - part!
He lives, he lives, he lives, he lives,

You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with - in my heart.

Lord of the Dance

Sydney Carter, 1963

19th Century Shaker Tune

Unison G Em Bm Em Am

1. I danced in the morn - ing when the world was be - gun, and I danced in the moon and the
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they would not dance and they
 3. I danced on the sab - bath when I cured the lame, the ho - ly peo - ple
 4. I danced on a Fri - day and the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that - 'll

D7 G Em

stars and the sun, and I came down from heav - en and I
 would not fol - low me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for
 said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they hung
 dev - il on your back; they bur - ied my bod - y and you'll
 nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll

Bm Em Am D7 C G *Refrain* G Bm

danced on the earth, At Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 James and John; they came to me and the dance went on.
 me high; and they left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher -
 they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on.
 live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Em G Am D G C G D7 G

- ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll

C D7 G C G

lead you all in the dance, said he.

Easter Lily Dedications



In Memory of Lysle Parker
In Memory of Alberta Parker
In Memory of Betty Hutchison
In Memory of Leonard Vandenheuvel
In Honor of Oren Benton
In Honor of Mayella Kelley
In Honor of Wayne & Evelyn Coon
In Honor of Ed & Bernice Benton
In Memory of Stanley & Kent Olson
In Honor of Caroline Robertson
In Memory of the Koch's Grandparents
In Memory of Sam & Carol Small
In Memory of Dean Berg
In Memory of the Groty's Parents & Billy