



UNITED METHODISTS
OF SUSQUEHANNA & UPPER NEW YORK



Editor's Note:

The following message is a written transcript of Bishop Burgos-Nunez Easter video message to the Susquehanna-Upper New York Episcopal Area. We invite you to read and reflect – and to view the full video message [here](#).

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

As we journeyed through Lent, we were reminded again and again that prayer is not simply one more task in the life of a disciple. Prayer is the heartbeat of the Christian life. It roots us in God's presence, opens our lives to God's sustaining love, and draws us into the life of the One who makes all things new.

Through prayer, we participate in God's life.

Through prayer, we allow God to participate in ours.

And outside of this relationship—our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit—we can do nothing.

This truth feels especially urgent in a season when so much in our nation and world is distressed. We are walking through deep division, rising violence, racial injustice, attacks on vulnerable communities, economic anxiety, and a public discourse shaped by fear and mistrust. In such a climate, cynicism can feel easier than hope.

But Easter interrupts cynicism.

Easter silences despair.

Easter declares that death does not get the last word, God does.

On the first day of the week, when the women approached the tomb expecting death, they found instead the blazing announcement of heaven:

"He is not here. He is risen."

The resurrection is God's definitive answer to the world's deepest prayers—

the prayer for healing,

the prayer for justice,

the prayer for peace,

the prayer for new life.

And here is the astonishing truth of Easter:

The risen Christ now invites us to become part of God's answer.



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We pray—and then, transformed and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we rise from our knees to love boldly, serve joyfully,
and lead courageously in a world longing for hope.

This is not a hollow optimism.

This is resurrection power.

This is the Spirit of the living Christ at work in us and through us.

So, this Easter, I invite you to do more than celebrate the empty tomb.

I invite you to embody it.

Where there is division—be a bridge.

Where there is fear—be a presence of peace.

Where there is injustice—be a voice for righteousness.

Where there is loneliness—be a companion.

Where there is despair—be a witness to hope.

Where there is suffering—be a sign of Christ's healing love.

Let your life become a living Amen to the prayers of the world.

As we renew our commitment to prayer, may we also renew our commitment to action—

not action rooted in anxiety or striving,

but action rooted in resurrection,

action rooted in the Spirit's power,

action rooted in the love of the God who makes all things new.

My prayer this Easter is simple and bold:

that we, the people of the Susquehanna and Upper New York Area,

would become the answers to the prayers we pray—

disciples who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously,

so that lives and communities are transformed

through Christ's healing and liberating love.

Christ is risen.

Christ is with us.

Christ is at work in us and through us.

Alleluia. Amen.