

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with vibrant colors of orange, yellow, and blue, with some clouds catching the light. The ocean is dark blue and occupies the bottom third of the frame. The text "Easter Stories" is written in a dark blue, cursive font across the middle of the image.

# Easter Stories

# **Opening Song**

**“Softly and Tenderly  
Jesus is Calling”**

# **CALL TO WORSHIP**

(from a Brief Statement of Faith)

One: In life and death,

**Many: we belong to God.**

One: We are embraced by love;

**Many: we are saved by grace.**

One: God's Spirit has set us free

**Many: to forgive one another,**

One: to pray without ceasing,

**Many: to love God and neighbor.**

One: So let us forgive, and let us love,

**Many: let us pray, and let us work  
for peace.**

One: And most of all, as one in Christ,

**All: let us worship God!**

# **Gathering Prayer**

# **Call to Confession**

One: We are not always proud of what we have done, but God looks at us with eyes of mercy. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins and open our hearts to God's healing.

# **Prayer of Confession**

**Creator God, who made the world good, we confess that we have rebelled against you and gone our own way.**



**We hide from your goodness, we  
ignore your commandments, and we  
forget that every human being is  
made in your image.**

**We are truly sorry. We want to change.**

**We ask that you help us to begin again.**

**Give us the radical courage that comes  
from your Spirit. Help us to accept  
ourselves and to love our neighbor.  
Make us ambassadors of your peace.**

One: Please continue in silent  
confession....Amen.

# **We Are Forgiven!**

(from 2 Cor. 5:17)

One: Sisters and brothers, listen to these words as if you have never heard them before: “Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.”

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**Baptism of  
Emma Rae McWaters**

**John 21:15-17**

**“The Last Word is Love”**

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”  
Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”



He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?”

And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”  
Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

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# *Easter Stories*

# **The Lord's Supper**

# **Celebration of Our High School Graduates**

Kylie Barnes

Katelyn Brodersen

Colin Luttrell

Lizzy Mee

Paige Rhody

# **Thanksgiving for Faithful Service**

Sandra and Chuck Hedrick

Mike Brodersen

Presbytery Representative

Session Leader: At Kirkwood

Presbyterian Church, we are rooted and grounded in God's love. In God's love, Pastor Sandra has led us in worship, shared our joys and sorrows, taught us God's Word, and celebrated the sacraments.

As her husband and ministry partner,  
Chuck has supported her and been a  
friend and co-worker in our mission and  
ministry. Let us give thanks to God:



Presbytery Leader: For the baptisms  
celebrated here,

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

Session Leader: For the power of God's  
Word proclaimed here,

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

Presbytery Leader: For the prayers said  
here, and for the healings experienced,  
**Many: Thanks be to God.**

Session Leader: For the bread and the  
cup shared at the Table,  
**Many: Thanks be to God.**

Presbytery Leader: For the friendships made in love, and for working and serving together,

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

Session Leader: Sandra and Chuck, as you go and as we stay, we remain united in Christ.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

Presbytery Leader: In our endings and  
our new beginnings,

**Many: Love has the last word.**

Session Leader: Pastor Sandra, we thank you for your service, and we send you both with our blessing as you begin your new journey together. May the peace of God abide with you now and forever.

**All: Amen and amen!**

# **Closing Song**

**“This I Believe (The Creed)”**

# **Charge and Blessing**

One: Go in peace to love the Lord, rejoicing  
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

One: And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**



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