



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Easter Sunday

9 April 2023

Behold: *salus electorum, sanguis Jesu*; the death of death in the death of Jesus... made altogether sure and certain by His resurrection. —John Owen

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Easter Procession—Psalm 24

Pastor: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. For He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Musicians: *Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?*

All: **He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.**

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Musicians: *Who is this King of glory?*

All: **The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!**

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Musicians: *Who is this King of glory?*

All: **The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

Sung Response—All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name, Vs. 1

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall; Bring forth the ro - yal di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all. Bring forth the ro - yal di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all." The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines in the bass clef.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1779; Music: Coronation, Oliver Holden, 1793, arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.

Call to Worship—from John 11:25-26; Job 19:25

Pastor: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." Do you believe this?

All: I know that my Redeemer lives! Christ is risen!

Pastor: He is risen indeed!

Congregational Hymn—Christ The Lord Is Risen Today

Christ, the Lord, is ris'n to - day, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Lives a - gain our glor - ious King, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Soar we now where Christ hath led, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Sons of men and an - gels say, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - - - - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids His rise, Al - - - - le - lu - ia!
Once He died our souls to save, Al - - - - le - lu - ia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Al - - - - le - lu - ia!

Sing, — ye — heav'ns, and Earth, re - ply, — Al - - - - le - lu - ia!
Christ hath — o - pened par - a - dise, — Al - - - - le - lu - ia!
Where thy — vic - to - ry, O grave? — Al - - - - le - lu - ia!
Ours — the — cross, the grave, the skies, — Al - - - - le - lu - ia!

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts.

Congregational Hymn—And Let This Feeble Body Fail



And let this fee - ble bod - y fail, — and let it faint and die;
In hope of that — im - mor - tal crown I now the cross sus - tain,
I suf - fer through my wear - y years till my dear Je - sus come,
I see a world of saints so bright who reap the pleas - ures there;
Give joy or grief, give ease or pain, take life or friends a - way,



My soul shall quit the mourn - ful vale, and soar to worlds on high;
And glad - ly wan - der up and down, and smile at toil and pain;
To wipe a - way His ser - vant's tears, and take this pil - grim home;
They all are robed in spot - less white, and con - qu'ring palms they bear.
But let me find them all a - gain — in that e - ter - nal day.



And I'll sing hal - le - lu - jah, and you'll sing hal - le - lu - jah, —



And we'll all sing hal - le - lu - jah, when we ar - rive at home.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1759, alt. 2023; Music: HALLELUJAH, William Walker, 1835,
arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2023.

Responsive Reading—based on John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Romans 8:1, 38-39; 11:36

Elder: Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live.”

All: For He who raised Christ from the dead will also raise us up by His power.

Elder: Therefore, neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Elder: To Him be glory forever.

All: Amen.

Congregational Hymn—Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands



Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands, for our of - fens - es—giv - en;
It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and death con - tend - ed;
So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the Lord in - vites us;



But now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from Heav - en:
The vic - tor - y re - mained with life: the reign of death was—end - ed.
Christ is Him - self the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.



There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing God's prais - es thank - ful - ly
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns, an emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine to our hearts;



With songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Death's sting is lost for - ev - er! Al - le - lu - ia!
The night of sin is end - ed. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1524, tr. Richard Massie 1858; Music: CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN,
Medieval melody, arr. Johann Walther, 1524.


Reading of the Word—Psalm 118: 22-29

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. ²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! ²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. ²⁷The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! ²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to You; You are my God; I will extol You. ²⁹Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response—In Christ Alone, Vs. 1



In Christ a - lone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cor - ner-stone, this so - lid ground, Firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease!
My com - fort - er, my all in all— Here in the love of Christ I stand.

CCLI #2844402 © 2002 Thankyou Music; Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2002.

Sermon—*The Light of Life*

—Pastor, George Grant

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Every one of us has sinned (Romans 3:23)—and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Proverbs 14:12). There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God (Romans 3:10-11).

All: All of us have turned aside; together we have become useless. (Romans 3:12)

Pastor: And all those who hate God love death (Proverbs 8:36). But thanks be to God: He so loved the world, that He sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

All: Lord, we believe. Help us in our unbelief. (Mark 9:24)

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord God Almighty, who is the giver of life (Acts 17:25), the fountain of life (Psalm 36:9), the defender of life (Psalm 27:1), the prince of life (Acts 3:15), and the restorer of life (Ruth 4:15), did not leave us to languish hopelessly in the clutches of sin and death. He not only sent us the message of life (Acts 5:20) and the words of life (John 6:68), He sent us the light of life as well (John 8:12). He sent us His only begotten Son—the life of the world (John 6:51)—to break the bonds of death (1 Corinthians 15:54-56). Jesus tasted death for everyone (Hebrews 2:9), abolishing death for our sakes (2 Timothy 1:10). And having been raised from the dead, He now offers us new life: resurrection life (John 5:21).

Pastor: This is the promise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: What is impossible with man is possible with God.

Sung Response—Fivefold Amen

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

Text: Traditional; Music: Traditional African-American Spiritual,
arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988.

HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCHARISTO*

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God: the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

WOMEN

MEN Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might,
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might, -
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho san-na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho
high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est. A - men.
san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est. A - men.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—Nothing But The Blood

What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
For my par - don, this I see, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
Noth-ing can for sin a - tone: Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my hope and peace, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;

What can make me whole a - gain? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
For my cleans - ing this my plea, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
Naught of good that I have done: Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my right - eous - ness, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Oh! pre - cious is the flow that makes me white as snow; —

No oth - er fount I know, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1876; Music: PLAINFIELD, Robert Lowry, 1876.

Congregational Hymn—Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah!

Christ is ris - en! Hal - le - lu - jah! Ris - en our vic - tor-ious Head!
Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness of His earth - ly life is o'er,
Christ is ris - en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall;

Sing His prais - es! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
Through the op - en gates of glad - ness He re - turns to life once more;
We are Christ's, in Him for-ev - er we have tri - umphed ov - er all;

Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore Him, as His light once more ap - pears,
Death and hell be - fore Him bend - ing, He doth rise, the vic - tor now,
All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our tremb - ling hearts have ceased,

Bow - ing down in joy be - fore Him, ris - ing up from grief and tears,
An - gels on His steps at - tend - ing, glor - y round His wound - ed brow.
'Tis His day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Sing His prais - es! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
Through the op - en gates of glad - ness He re - turns to life once more.
We are Christ's, in Him for-ev - er we have tri - umphed ov - er all.

CCLI #2844402 Text: James S.B. Monsell, 1863; Music: BEACH SPRING (FOUNT OF GLORY),
attr. B. F. White, 1844, R.W. Thompson, 1854, arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2010.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Congregational Hymn—I Know That My Redeemer Lives



I___ know that my re - deem - er lives, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to bless me___ with His love; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to crush the fiends of hell; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to plead my___ cause a - bove; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives and doth with - in me dwell; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



Shout___ on, pray on, we're gain - ing ground, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



The dead's a - live, and the lost is found, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1775; Music: ANTIOCH (SHOUT ON), F. C. Wood,
The Sacred Harp, 1850; arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2017.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Revelation 5:11-14

Pastor: I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:

Musicians: *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”*

Pastor: And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

Musicians: *“To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

Pastor: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Sung Response—Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low;
praise Him a - bove ye heav'n-ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Q. *What doth the resurrection of Christ profit us?*

A. First, by His resurrection He has overcome death, that He might make us partakers of that righteousness which He had purchased for us by His death; secondly, we are also by His power raised up to a new life; and lastly, the resurrection of Christ is a sure pledge of our blessed resurrection.

—*The Heidelberg Catechism*

Key Words: Cornerstone, Marvelous, Blessed, Light, Sacrifice, Thanks, Love, Endures

Keystone Verse: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. (Psalm 118:22)



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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.