



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Easter Sunday

12 April 2020

What doth the resurrection of Christ profit us? 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, Q. 45

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—from Psalm 24

Pastor 1: The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.

All: For He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Pastor 2: 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 1: Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor 2: Who is this King of glory?

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

Pastor 1: Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor 2: Who is this King of glory?

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

Introit—Jesus Shall Reign, Vs. 1

Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;

His king - dom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, 1793.

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!

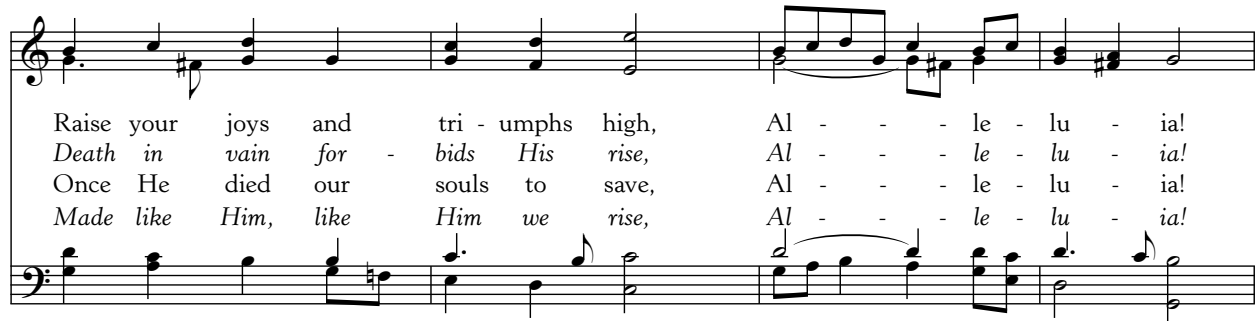
Hymn of Praise—Christ The Lord Is Risen Today



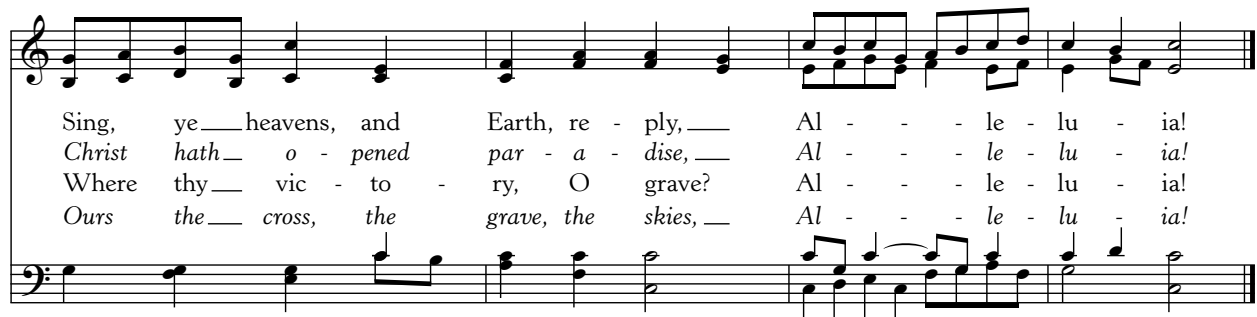
Christ, the Lord, is ris'n to - day, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Lives a - gain our glor - ious King, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Soar we now where Christ hath led, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!



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 — heavens, 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!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708.

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.

Hymn of Praise—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.

Responsive Reading—from John 11:25; Acts 2:24; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Romans 8:38-39

Elder: God raised Jesus up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

All: Thus, Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live."

Elder: God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

All: 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.

Elder: This is our Gospel hope! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise—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.

Text: James S.B. Monsell, 1863; Music: FOUNT OF GLORY, R.W. Thompson, 1864,
Arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2010. ©2010 Gregory Wilbur.

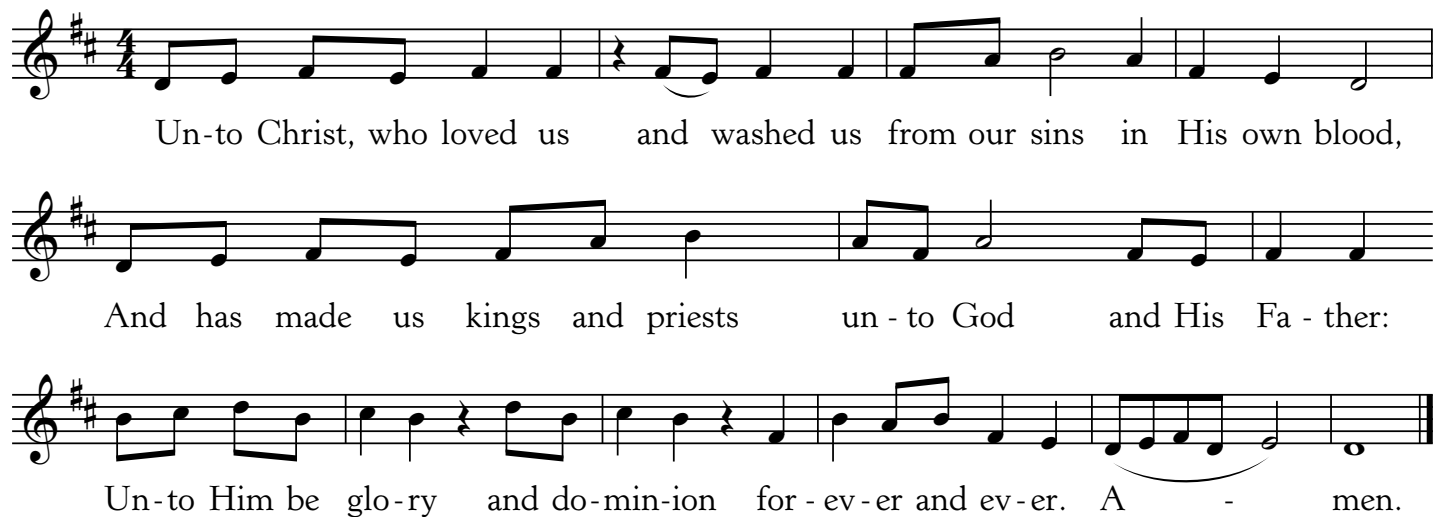
Reading of the Word—Romans 11:33-36

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways! ³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor?” ³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid?” ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response—Unto Christ Who Loved Us



Un-to Christ, who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
And has made us kings and priests un - to God and His Fa - ther:
Un-to Him be glo-ry and do-min-ion for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

CCLI #2844402 ©1936 Oxford University Press
Text: Revelation 1:5-6; Music: UNTO HIM WHO LOVED US, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1936.

Sermon—*Resurrection 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—based on John 20:24-29; Mark 9:24; Isaiah 1:4

Pastor: Lord, we confess that like the women at the tomb (and later, even some of Christ's disciples), whatever faith we may have, is bedeviled by fear and doubt. Thus, when the other disciples told Thomas, "We have seen the Lord," he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe."

All: **So, with the faithful through the ages we cry, "Lord, we believe. Help us in our unbelief."**

Pastor: Lord, we confess that we are a sinful people, laden with iniquity.

All: **We are sinners and the offspring of sinners. We are doubters, as foolish as children.**

Assurance of Pardon—based on John 20:26-29; Psalm 145:13-14, 20; Luke 18:27

But Jesus came and stood among His doubting disciples and said, "Peace be with you." He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Indeed, the Lord is always faithful in all His words and kind in all His works. The Lord upholds all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down. The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works.

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—Nothing But The Blood, Vs. 1



What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;



What can make me whole a - gain? 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.

HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCCHARISTO*

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:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might-y! Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;

Ho-ly, ho-ly ho - ly! Mer - ci-ful and might - y! God in three per-sons, bless-ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1826; Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1861.

Song of Reflection—*O Tell Me No More*

*O tell me no more of this world's vain store,
The time for such trifles with me now is o'er'
A country I've found where true joys abound,
To dwell I'm determined on that happy ground
Forever on that happy ground*

*No mortal man knows what Jesus bestows,
What life strength and comfort! Go after Him, go!
Lo, onward I move, to see Him above,
None guesses how wondrous my journey will prove,
How wondrous my journey will prove.*

*Great spoils I shall win from death, hell and sin,
'Mid outward affliction, know Jesus within;
And still, which is best, I in His dear breast,
As at the beginning, find pardon and rest,
With Jesus find pardon and rest.*

*When I am to die, "Receive me," I'll cry,
For Jesus has loved me, I cannot tell why.
But this I do find, we two are so joined,
He'll not live in glory and leave me behind
He never will leave me behind.*

*This blessing is mine, through favor divine,
And O, my dear Jesus, the praise shall be Thine
In heaven we'll meet in harmony sweet,
And glory to Jesus! We'll then be complete,
O glory! We'll then be complete.*

Text: John Gambold, 1742, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019;
Music: ELM SPRINGS, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

About the music:

“O Tell Me No More” was written by the English Moravian pastor John Gambold in 1742. The plaintive longing for a heavenly country and quiet confidence in Christ’s victory over death appealed to the American compilers of the hymnals *The Southern Harmony* and *The Sacred Harp*, where it was set to the shape-note tune SWEET HARMONY. Earlier this year, the Parish choir had begun working on this piece in preparation for our Good Friday service—the poetry seemed tailor made for a day when we simultaneously mourn Jesus’ suffering on the cross and celebrate the promise of eternal life His suffering won for us. Of course, in God’s providence, the events of the pandemic intervened and the choir was unable to sing together this season. Short of that, I still wanted to share the hymn with you—you’ll hear it today with music composed just last year, which better suits a small group of musicians. As we reflect on this most unusual of Easter Sundays, I pray that this hymn will remind us that Christ is even now sitting on His throne in glory, and that He will not leave us behind. —Henry C. Haffner

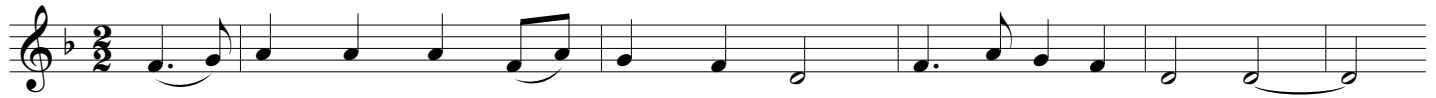
GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

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.*

Hymn of Praise—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, Samuel 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—from Revelation 5:11-14

Pastor 1: 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:

Pastor 2: *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”*

Pastor 1: 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:

Pastor 2: *“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 1: Christ is risen!

All: **He is risen indeed!**

Sung Response—Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1709; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois's *Genevan Psalter*, 1551.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

The very first promise of redemption comes immediately after the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden. There God declares that the “seed of the woman” would “bruise the head of the serpent” (Genesis 3:16). In the earliest churches, this great promise was artistically represented by mosaics of dragons on floors—upon which everyone in the congregation could step and jump and stomp. This Easter we’re not able to stomp on the dragon carpet in our Parish foyer, but we have included a wonderful Celtic dragon image designed by Caleb Faires on the following page, which you may enjoy printing, decorating, and stomping. So on this Resurrection Sunday morn, go ahead: join with the saints across the ages who have followed after *Christus Victor* in crushing the head of the serpent!

—Pastor George Grant

Key Words: Riches, Wisdom, Knowledge, Unsearchable, Inscrutable, Gift, All Things
Keystone Verse: From Him and through Him and to Him are all things. (Romans 11:36)



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

