

Virtual Easter Sunday Service
April 12, 2020
Crossnore Presbyterian Church



"Easter Sunday. God's Resurrection" by [Marieve Ortiz](#)

Gathering Music: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN OF JOY

**performed by the Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eXT60rbBVk&list=RD3eXT60rbBVk&start_radio=1&t=58

Call to Worship:

The stone was rolled away.

Christ is Risen!

The tomb was found empty.

Christ is Risen!

The angel said, "Do not be afraid."

Christ is Risen!

No matter where we are, we proclaim now and always,

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

Hymn of Praise: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

EASTER HYMN

**Sing along with King's College Choir:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMwPEmUMP7U>

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!

Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!

Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Opening Prayer:

God of all seasons, we are reminded that Your time is not our time.

As we are in the midst of a difficult season, resurrection is at hand.

In a time when we are called to stay indoors, we shout out loud that Christ is Risen.

We wander in the darkness of uncertainty, wondering when restrictions will be lifted.

We remember how the women discovered the stone was rolled away.

We remember those who gathered at the tomb, their trembling and fear, their wonder and amazement.

We remember their witness in the face of the unknown.

Be bold in us, O God, to proclaim the resurrection now.

Be bold in us, O God, to live out our faith by doing our part to care for our neighbors and loved ones.
Be bold in us, O God, to trust in a future with hope that is beyond what we can perceive right now.
Be bold in us, O God, to proclaim that Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen Indeed,
and that the season of new life and resurrection has begun. Amen!

Call to Confession:

God rolls away the stone from the tomb of our hearts and calls to us to repent of those things in our lives that cause us to reject our true humanity, the divine image within us, and sink into despair and hopelessness. Let us bring our brokenness before God as we pray together.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

We confess to You, O Risen Christ, that we need resurrection more than ever. We need new life now. Guide us to find the seeds of new life in the midst of the world we are in. Call us to perceive where the stone is being rolled away. Break us open to the world even while we keep ourselves safe. Remind us that the resurrection, the new life in You, begins here and now with us. Help us to boldly declare that Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

God whispers in our hearts, "Do not be afraid." All things will be made new. All things will begin again. Hold on to the new life in Christ, and know that love and life are yours, now and always.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy: *In Christ Alone*

*Stuart Townend & Keith Getty Copyright © 2001 Thankyou Music
Vocal Arrangement by David Wesley

Sing along with the Virtual Choir # 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RY4CW5pte98>

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

First Lesson: Jeremiah 29:11-14a

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord...

*The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.***

Choral Anthem: You Raise Me Up" COLOR MUSIC Children's Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRclEMgppK8>

Second Lesson: Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." *The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.***

Sermon: "Living into the Resurrection" (the sermon is on a separate attachment in this email)

Affirmation of Faith: (submitted by Jerie Lukefahr, Commissioned Ruling Elder, PC (USA))

We believe in God: omnipresent, in every time, and in every place, generating and sustaining all life, nurturing relationship with Creation.

We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who lived and loved, taught and died; the One who conquered death and who surprises us with grace, when we least expect or deserve it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who journeys with us and makes our faith possible, in every situation and every circumstance.

We believe that every place we pause to recognize the mystery of our Triune God, is a sacred place, from magnificent sanctuaries to family homes to wooded forests and sunrises over the ocean. Surely, God is with us in every time and in every place, and we are grateful.

Hymn of Meditation: *Thine Is the Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

***Sing along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbBOOmKMLml>**

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son:
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]

Refrain

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love:
bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]

Refrain

Prayers for the World:

Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.
For you alone are our hope.
We place before you the disease present in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into your eternal home.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care.

God, our Creator, we trust in you.
Risen Christ, we trust in you.
Holy Spirit, we trust in you.
Three in One, we trust in you.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who taught his disciples to pray: Our Father...Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

We bring before God our gifts of money, talents, and time as we remember that our lives and all we possess are God's gift to us. Let us give with joy as we celebrate the Risen Christ this day.

Offering Prayer (inspired by Psalm 118, John 20):

**Thank you, God, for the gift of this amazing day of resurrection!
Our hearts are overflowing with the joy and excitement of Easter.
We pray that you will take our exuberance and use it
to bring light and hope to those trapped in darkness and despair.
Use these gifts of money to empower our work
with those who have not yet seen the risen Lord in their midst.
Use the gift of our very lives to empower our calling
to carry your Incarnate Love into the world
in ways that are healthy.
We pray this with the boldness of those
who have encountered the living Christ. Amen.**



Closing Hymn: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PROMISE

***Sing along with Nancy Allen:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgEQSu2bpc4&list=RDxgEQSu2bpc4&start_radio=1&t=2

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Charge and Benediction:

Go forth with renewed hope, trusting in the transforming love of God.
God does not leave things as they are; with God, all things are made new.
All creation responds to God's presence; the world is alive with possibility.
We open ourselves to this truth; with Christ, we trust our whole lives to this power.
Nothing is beyond the reach of God; neither evil, nor hardship, nor death.
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed.

The love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with each of you, be with all of us, be with our hurting and caring world. Amen.

Postlude: *Amazing Grace* sung by Judy Collins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKubMPTVdk>

