

*Easter Sunday
Celebration of Christ's Resurrection
Sunday, April 4, 2021
Crossnore Presbyterian Church*



Announcements and Prayer Requests (attached PDF)

Call to Worship:

Think of a moment when someone that you least expected to see suddenly stands before you.

A moment when something you'd lost is found again and you can scarcely believe your eyes.

Think of a moment when your fear was suddenly proved unfounded and you were surprised by joy.

This morning is such a moment. We resign ourselves to the worst, and suddenly life turns around.

So come this Easter morning, to be shaken from your conviction that nothing can change your situation.

Come if you look at the world and feel overwhelmed by its chaos, or disillusioned by its promises.

On this morning we remember how Mary went to anoint a corpse, and was greeted by a Savior.

Come to worship prepared to see your life and the world through new eyes.

For Christ is risen, **Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

Hymn of Praise # 232 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Text: Lyra Davidica, 1708; stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708

Sing along with the Choir of King's College, Cambridge (verses 1-3): <https://youtu.be/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!**

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. 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!**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Call to Confession:

Christ has risen and we have risen to new life with him. Yet we must confess the ways we have continued to remain in our tombs of sin and death. Let us bring our confession before God and each other.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Living Lord, when we stand before the empty tomb, we don't always feel the joy of resurrection. We feel fear, doubt, and distrust. We feel empty. Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of new life. Forgive our doubt of your love. Forgive our distrust of your surprising, joyous plan. Fill our emptiness with your glorious light. Raise us to abundant new life for the glory of your name (moment of silent confession). In the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Sisters and brothers, Christ is risen and offers us new life here and now. Christ has forgiven our sins. Christ calls us to live in the light of the Resurrection. We are called to be Easter People. Alleluia! Amen.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 243 *Be Not Afraid*

Text: Taize Community, 1996; Music: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1591

Sing along with Coventry Singers: <https://youtu.be/1x6EbPw8OJO>

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia

Prayer of Illumination:

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Artist: Eugene Bernard

Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.



Sermon: "From Grief to Joy" (Zoom Link and PDF included in email)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Special Music: *An Easter Hallelujah* sung Cassandra Star & her sister Callahan

<https://youtu.be/-j3NZEhQaI>

Easter version of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah. These Easter lyrics were written by Kelley Mooney,

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;**

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence, he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of Meditation # 238 *Thine Is the Glory

Text: Edmond Louis Budry, 1884; Music: George Frederick Handel, 1748

Sing along with Grace Community Church - Sun Valley, California: <https://youtu.be/AG3OZoSXmt0>

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory 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 is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory 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 the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]

Prayers of the People:

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed!**

Risen Lord, hear our cry for help –
for those surrounded by the shroud of death
for those covered by the mantle of dying
for those hemmed-in by illness, visible or veiled
hear our cry for help...

for those weighed down with worries
for those carrying the burden of distress
for those overwhelmed by isolation
hear our cry for help...

for those who are weary
for those who are tattered and worn
for those who collapse from exhaustion
hear our cry for help...



Rosary Basilica, Lourdes, 19th century, mosaic

Risen Lord, hear our cry of thanksgiving –
for the graciousness with which you hear
for the patience with which you listen
for the grace with which you care
hear our cry of thanksgiving...

for the ways you accompany us through deep valleys
for the ways you lead us to still meadows
for the ways you provide all we need
hear our cry of thanksgiving...

for transforming death in resurrection life
for blessing and breaking ordinary bread
for opening our eyes to recognize you
hear our cry of thanksgiving...

Risen Lord, hear our cry for communities of faith –
that we retain memory of being together
that we embrace unity in the reality of distance
that we foresee a future side-by-side, hand-in-hand
hear our cry for communities of faith...

that we sense purpose beyond ourselves
that we perceive the needs of others
that we stretch ourselves to respond
hear our cry for communities of faith...

that our ways be formed by Your Way
that our lives be shaped by Your Life
that our love be Your Love
hear our cry for communities our faith...

And hear us as we pray together.... Our Father... Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

We are so grateful for the opportunity to be Easter People and to love the Risen Christ by loving others through our time, talents, and treasures. Let us receive this morning's offering.

***Doxology # 606**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551

Sing along with Anthem Lights ft. Selah: <https://youtu.be/tQUTvMtUhw4>

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

Mighty God of Resurrection power: We so desperately need the "Alleluia!" morning! We have lived with death for so long; we have been trapped in our tombs so long, we could not be more anxious to hear the report from Mary, "I have seen the Lord!" We know in our hearts that you have been with us through all the past year has handed us, and we have seen you in the generosity of heart that has brought us through these days. As we give back to you this day, may we do so as those convinced that light will always wash away darkness, and life will always defeat death! In the name of our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 250 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Text: Natalie Sleeth, 1986; Music: 1986 Hope Publishing Company

Sing along with Amy Pottkotter, Wilshire Baptist Church: <https://youtu.be/uJn9Lygi3cQ>

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**

Rev. Kathy Campbell

As you go out into God's world this week, be Easter people!

Be those who say, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here. He is risen."

Be ready to be surprised with what God will do next.

Look for the risen Christ in those you meet.

Let the Holy Spirit nudge and guide you.

The tomb is empty because Jesus is out in the world,
and now we must go out into the world too!

May the joy and wonder of that first Easter morning live in your hearts today and every day. Amen.

Postlude: The Strife is O'er

<https://youtu.be/BQnaHNMCA5s>

Organ improvisations on "Victory" (Alleluia! The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done).

Performed as the organ postlude for the Third Sunday of Easter (8 May 2011)

at Grace Episcopal Church (College Hill, Cincinnati)

by Jonathan Y. Tan on the 1979 M.P. Moeller pipe organ.