

THE SERVICE FOR EASTER SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 21, 2019



GATHER

Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.

Please remember to turn cell phones and pagers to silent for worship.

Where you see an asterisk () please stand if you are able.*

*Words in **bold** are read by the congregation.*

FOR MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP *(for personal use before worship)*

On Christmas morning we find the manger full of life. On Easter morning we find the tomb empty of death. We know the whole truth now: death is not the end, and life as we know it is only the beginning of Life.

Joan Chittister

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Do not be afraid: Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ is risen and the Spirit is with us.

Christ is risen! God has worked wonders. Alleluia!

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives. Alleluia!

PRELUDE

Easter Chorale

Jongen

PRAYER FOR SUNDAY MORNING

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lord of the dawn,

revealed to women of courage and men of doubt:

take us from the empty places where death holds power

to the rising of your love as light for all the world;

in Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life.

Amen.

* HYMN 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
2. 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!
3. 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!
4. 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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus, Son of Mary
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, Savior of the World,
Make peace within us.

Christ, King of Glory:
Be with us and for us, wherever life takes us.

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made.
Forgive us God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen lord.**

(We take time to pray quiet, personal prayer...)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

* SHARING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*We greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation. A touch on the shoulder, a nod, a bow –
can be a substitute for handshakes to hinder the spread of germs and the flu.*

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE 246 verses 1 & 5 *(singing together)*

Christ Is Alive!

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ENCOUNTER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25 (*page 607, Pew Bible*)

The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

TODAY'S CHILDREN'S STORY BIBLE TEXT

Children might like to read this lesson:

“Women at the Tomb”

Based on Luke 24:1-12, (*page 276*)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 24:1-12 (*page 860, Pew Bible*)

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE, 243

Be Not Afraid

Taizé

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

SERMON *They Found the Stone Rolled Away from the Tomb* Dr. Morton Harris
(*after the sermon, we observe a time of silence and prayer*)

RESPOND AND SERVE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(together)*

A New Testament Affirmation

This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
Christ is our Lord and our God.
Amen.

* HYMN 239

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

Gelobt Sei Gott

1. Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. The Lord of life is risen today!
Death's mighty stone is rolled away.
Let all the earth rejoice and say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
4. Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONCERNS AND REMEMBRANCES

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND CONCERN

God of new life:
Hear our prayer.

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.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Worthy Is the Lamb (Messiah)

Handel

*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
and hath redeemed us to God by his blood,
to receive power, and riches, and wisdom,
and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him, be unto him
that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.*

SEND AND BLESS

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* HYMN 249

Because You Live, O Christ!

Vruechten

1. Because you live, O Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower;
the darkness of the tomb is flooded with your resurrection power.

Refrain:

The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!

O sing this Easter day, for Jesus Christ has risen,

has risen, has risen, has risen!

2. Because you live, O Christ, the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;
our cages of despair no longer keep us closed and life-denying.

Refrain:

The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!

O sing this Easter day, for Jesus Christ has risen,

has risen, has risen, has risen!

3. Because you live, O Christ, the rainbow of your peace will span creation;
the colors of your love will draw all humankind to adoration.

Refrain:

The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!

O sing this Easter day, for Jesus Christ has risen,

has risen, has risen, has risen!

* CLOSING RESPONSES

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

In the peace of God.

We carry Christ's love into the world.

In company with Christ.

We live resurrection life.

With our lives we proclaim:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata (Suite Gothique)

Boelmann



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, education, mission and common life of First Church.

During Today's Worship

Please turn all cell phones to "silent" when in the Sanctuary. Photography during worship is discouraged, and flash is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

Large print bulletins (including hymns and scripture readings) are available from the ushers.

If your infant or child needs care or becomes too restless during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. Child care for infants and children under four years old is available all morning. The nursery is in Room 159. We have a texting system to alert you if you are needed while in the worship service. The ushers will be glad to help you.

Worship programs for children include: *Godly Play* for younger children (age 4 - grade 1) during the 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. services.

Worship Bulletins and Crayons are at the ushers' table in the Upper Commons. Please return the crayons as you leave.

If you are new to First Church

Please sign our Ritual of Friendship, the red pad in the pew.

Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month.

Disabled persons entrance is through the Main Entrance in the rear of the building.

We invite you to stop for Breakfast in Lyle Buck Hall this morning between 7:00 – 10:30 a.m.

We invite you to become a member of First Church. Please speak with Pastor Morton or Pastor Sue or call the church office to set a time to meet.

First Church Cares

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Pastor Morton Harris or Pastor Sue Lowcock Harris.

Worship Notes: *The Affirmation of Faith we are saying today is a New Testament affirmation. It references several passages of scripture. See: 1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Mark 16:9; Matthew 16:16; Revelation 22:13 and John 20:28. This affirmation was first compiled and published in The Worshipbook in 1970.*



The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

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We are an Earth Care Congregation ☩

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalcyzk 410-433-8861 x115

