



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 26, 2020

10:40 A.M.

Third Sunday of Easter

You will find the liturgy of the service laid out as it would normally be when we gather for worship in the sanctuary. You can choose to read it all together, or use the call and response format as printed. If you are going to follow along with the call and response it may help to select a liturgist for one or all the sections to lead you. This is good for any age person! If there are difficult words you can help each other out!

Prelude

J.S. Bach

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

Call to Worship

Followers of Jesus, by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

Alleluia!

By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

Alleluia!

By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, Jesus, our risen Lord, was made known to the disciples in the breaking of the bread. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may recognize his presence, and with his disciples’ cry, “The Lord has risen, indeed!” Through Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers"

231 Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,
 2 Christ has ris-en for the peo-ple whom he died to love and save;
 3 Christ has ris-en and for ev-er lives to chal-lenge and to change

as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de-nied.
 Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.
 all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re-li-gion strange.

Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;
 Christ has ris-en for dis-ci-ples hud-dled in an up-stairs room.
 Christ is ris-en, Christ is pres-ent mak-ing us what he has been:

let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris-en, God is here!
 He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.
 ev-i-dence of trans-for-ma-tion in which God is known and seen.

Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means "lullaby."

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's love in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, our world is filled with corruption: power disguises itself as truth; convenience masquerades as goodness; selfish pleasure imitates love. We confess to you, O God, that we have been caught in the web of the world's sin. By the power of the Holy Spirit, save us from these deceptions and free us for glad obedience, that we may see the joy of Jesus' resurrection and receive the promise of everlasting life.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God has promised salvation to us, to our children, and to all who are near and far. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer of Illumination

Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and set their hearts ablaze. By the power of your Spirit kindle our hearts as we hear your word proclaimed, that we may receive you with joy. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

The word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

Music Ministry “Jubilate Deo” Hal H. Hopson
Sanctuary Choir and Sanctuary Handbells
Barbara Witkowski, Guest Soprano Soloist

Jubilate, jubilate Deo!

Be joyful you people,
Come now before the Lord with a song.
O enter the gates with singing to God our praises
belong.

Know that the Lord is God, we are God's own.
We are God's people, the sheep of God's flock.
God in great mercy attends all our days.
Join hearts and voices to sing the Lord's praise.

Be joyful you people,
Come now before the Lord with a song.
O enter the gates with singing to God our praises
belong.

Jubilate, jubilate Deo!

Second Reading

Luke 24:13-35

The word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

"The Risen Christ"

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The Risen Christ

1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound - ed
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound - ed
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound - ed
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and

feet from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y
 side, breathes out his Spir - it on them to a -
 hand the bread for those who fail to un - der -
 stand with the op - pressed in this and ev - ery

street, un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear, and
 bide whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve; new
 stand, re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - gering tears, en -
 land, till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be, re -

speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 stored in Christ to true hu man - i - ty.

Guitar chords in Pew Edition do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This perceptive hymn centers on Christ's post-Resurrection appearances described in John 20:19–29 and Luke 24:13–48. The first three stanzas are shaped by the wounded body parts: feet, side, hand; the fourth prays for such woundedness in the witness of Christ's body, the Church.

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.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Call to Stewardship

Bountiful are God's gifts to us. In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruit of our labor to God's service.

Offertory

Michael Burkhardt

"God Himself Is Present"

Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth Doxology

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.

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives. Let us be a sacrifice of thanksgiving in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

Hymn 404

Komt Nu Met Zang

“What Is This Place”

404

What Is This Place

1 What is this place, where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the
2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing. Sparks that are sown in
3 And we ac - cept bread at his ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a

earth its floor. Walls and a roof, shel - ter - ing peo - ple, win-dows for
us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs, and won-ders sent from the
liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing, we are each

light, an o - pen door. Yet it be - comes a bod - y that
 past are what we need. We in this place re - mem - ber and
 oth - er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re -

lives when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 speak a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem - ing word.
 ceive what we need to in - crease: God's jus - tice and God's peace.

This text by a 20th-century Jesuit beautifully captures the fundamental truth that "church" is not primarily the building but the people who come together in order to be nourished by Word and Table so that they may show forth Christ's redeeming presence in the world.

TEXT: Huub Oosterhuis, 1968; trans. David Smith, 1970

KOMT NU MET ZANG

MUSIC: Neder-landsch Gedenck-Clanck, 1626; harm. Bernard Huijbers, 1968

9.8.9.8.9.6.6

Text and Music Harm. © 1967 Gooi En Sticht, Bv, Baarn, The Netherlands (admin. OCP for English-language countries)

Benediction

May the grace of Jesus Christ our risen Lord, the love of God who raised him from the death, and the power of the Holy Spirit who fills the world with new life bless and keep you. Amen.

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
 And also with you

Postlude

C.S. Lang

"Tuba Tune in D Major"

Music Notes – “Jubilate Deo” was Grace First’s second commissioned anthem. It was written memory of Jan Baird who was a vibrant part of the Music Ministry.