



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

APRIL 12, 2020
EASTER SUNDAY

Welcome

Prelude arr. Kevin McChesney *French Carol*
 "Now the Green Blade Riseth"
 Sanctuary Handbells

Call to Worship

On this day, we recognize the wilderness in the world.

On this day, we trust that God is near.

On this day, we hold on to hope.

On this day, we hold on to each other.

On this day, we sing, "Alleluia!"

On this day, we trust that love is stronger than hate.

On this day, we celebrate.

On this day, we sing.

On this day, we trust that nothing can separate us from God's love.

Let us worship Holy God!

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death and opened the way to eternal life. As the empty tomb stands witness to this triumph over death, make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life, that all we do may proclaim to the world, "He is risen, indeed!" Through Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Call to Confession

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God’s love, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

God of new life, We come to you confessing that we are guilty of creating emotional wilderness spaces—Spaces of raised voices and slamming doors, of judgments passed and accusations cast, of cold shoulders and deep regret. We create these spaces when we feel threatened, afraid, or ashamed, Which is far too often given the promises you make to us.

So draw us back to the beginning—where you created and it was good. Smooth over our wilderness scars and fill our veins with your love; for like the disciples on that Easter morning, we are running toward you. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Listen, church: God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Music Ministry

Gelobt Sei Gott
Arr. Hal H. Hopson

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing”
Sanctuary Choir, Brass, Congregation

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today!
Sing songs of praise along the way;
Let all the earth rejoice and say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Choir only

Praise we in songs of victory that love,
that life which cannot die.
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord.
The Life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Illumination

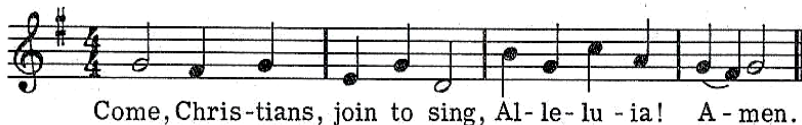
Holy God, You have always been one who disrupts. You interrupt suffering to bring peace. You interrupt isolation to create community. You interrupt silence with the sound of alleluias. So today we ask that you would interrupt us. Stop us in our tracks with the good news that only you offer. Freeze time and move among us, so that we can hear your word anew until the sound of alleluias ring in our ears. Amen.

Psalm 118:14-21

Cantor: Dianna Dixon

Refrain

Anonymous Melody
Arr. Hal H. Hopson



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First Reading

Psalm 46

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

Children's Anthem

Robert Lau

"Christ Is Risen! Alleluia"
Carol Choir

*Christ is risen! Alleluia! Now we sing a joyful song.
Jesus reigns in highest heaven,
sing this song the whole day long.
Alleluia!*

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Hear our voices as we sing:
Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia to our King.

Second Reading

John 20:1-16

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

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a wilderness God—

**Who breathed life into dust, turned seeds
Into flowers, and flooded the sky with stars.**

We believe in a wilderness God—

**Who went hungry in the desert, walked
barefoot on the water, and taught from the
mountainside.**

We believe in a wilderness God—

**Whose love could be described as nothing
short of wild.**

So with confidence and hope, we long to follow
our wilderness God who walks with people on
their darkest nights,

**Who sings hope into places of grief,
isolation, and suffering, and who exists in
the form of untamed joy, endless love, and
impossible hope. Step by step, may it be so.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Call to Stewardship

God has given us life in the resurrection of our
Lord Jesus Christ. In gratitude, let us offer our hearts
and the fruit of our labor to God's service.

Offertory

Melchior Vulpus

“Today Is Risen Christ the Lord, Alleluia!”

Sanctuary Choir and Brass

Today is risen Christ the Lord, Alleluia!
He doth for all men hope afford, Alleluia!

The pangs of death He did endure, Alleluia!
And gave to mortal man a cure. Alleluia!
Go bring to His disciples word: Alleluia!

Today is risen Christ the Lord. Alleluia!
Now let us in these Easter days,
O Triune God bring joyful praise. Alleluia!

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of
our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our
risen Lord who lives and reigns with you forever.

Hymn 248

Ode To Joy

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Charge and Benediction

Closing Choral Response George Frederick Handel
“Hallelujah!”
(*Messiah*)
Sanctuary Choir and Trumpet

Hallelujah!
For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is become
the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ;
and He shall reign for ever and ever.
King of kings, and Lord of Lords.
Hallelujah!

The Peace of Christ

The Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Closing Voluntary Giovanni Gabrielli
“Canzona”
Brass Quartet

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from:
Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion,
Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1, and A Sanctified Art



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music