



Believe



# Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*

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

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 19, 2020

10:40 A.M.

## Second 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**      “That Day with Joy was Bright”

### Call to Worship

The doors are locked. Why?

**Because the grave is empty.**

Many have run to hide. Why?

**Because the grave is empty.**

They are afraid. Why?

**Because the grave is empty.**

But you do not hide you do not fear, you do not despair. Why?

**Because the grave is empty. He is alive. All fear, doubt and despair has vanquished.**

Today he stands in our very midst, despite locked doors and fear and doubt. How can this be?

**Because the grave is empty. He is alive and here with us!**

## **Prayer of Invocation**

Although we have not seen you, God, we love you and believe in you for you have given us a new birth into a living hope through Jesus Christ. As a hopeful people, our song is praise. We rejoice with great joy in the promise and work of the resurrection. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our hope is eternal in you. In the name of the risen Lord we pray. Amen.

## **Hymn 238**

*Judas Maccabeus*

"Thine is the Glory"

## **Call to Confession**

Sometimes the distance between who we are and who we desire to be is so great, we feel as if we are in a far away country. We feel alone, isolated, and separate from our God. Let us come to God and confess our shortcomings and be renewed in one voice and then in our own silent confession.

## **Prayer of Confession**

God of power and wonder, today we stand in awe of all that you can do. We do not always understand the breadth and depth of your love. We come knowing that we have sinned against you. we come knowing that we have not faithfully carried out our responsibilities to be witnesses to all your works. In the midst of a world that seems to be on the edge of destruction, remind us this day that your love is far greater and reaching than we will ever know. Forgive us when we doubt. Lift us up and renew us in your love.

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Though you may endure trials for a little while, know that God is merciful and gracious. You are given new birth in a promise that is imperishable and unfading, for you are protected by the power of God through faith. New life is the Easter promise. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Believe this good news. Amen.

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Living God, we ask that you bless our time together this day. As we open your word to hear your voice, open our eyes, ears, hearts and mind that we might see, hear, and live the word you have for us today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **First Reading**

Acts 2:14a; 22-32

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

### **Music Ministry**

"The Strife is O'er"  
Sanctuary Handbells

### **Second Reading**

John 20:19-31

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

### **Sermon**

The Rev. David A. Slyter

### **Hymn 245**

*Llanfair*

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today!"

## **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.

## **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**

There is no gift we can offer to match what has been done for us in Jesus Christ. We can only offer thanks in the giving of our tithes and offerings that others whom we may not even know may know the love of Christ through us.

## **Offertory**     “Jesus Christ has Risen Today”

**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**

May the gifts we bring today bear love and hope to a world in need. We have not seen God, but we know God in his blessings given. Bless our offering that others may know God through the gifts we bring today. Amen.

**Hymn 263**

**Coronation**

**"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"**

**Benediction**

They may have shut the door on the past in the darkness of despair, but on the morning after, a way out was made clear. This is a new day, and it promises a new hope and a new message never heard in the history of the world. Let us go back into the world with a new hope. Go. Tell. Live. Hear his words, then in a new hopeful, life-giving way: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, I am now sending you."

**The Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you**

**Postlude**

"Thine is the Glory"