



# Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*



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

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

## Welcome and Announcements

As you prepare for worship today you are invited to light a candle in your worship space or gaze upon the Christ candle in the Sanctuary to center yourself for the worship of God.

**Prelude**

Dale Young

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

## Call to Worship (Responsive)

The bread of life opens our eyes.

**The word of life opens our ears.**

The risen one shows us God’s own brokenness,  
**and by those wounds we are healed.**

## Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, your power makes the lame walk and the dead rise to new life. We give you thanks for the love poured into our world through Jesus, who opened our minds to understand what you have made, whose appearance among his followers brings peace, and who creates faith through touch and taste. Show us Jesus, even now, through the mystery of your threefold presence, one God, abiding now and forever. Amen.

# Baptism of Clinton Michael Seidler

## 486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

1 Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized  
2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -  
3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you  
4 Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to

with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has  
a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our  
are, from God you came. Back to God we hum - bly  
lis - ten for God's call. Grow to laugh and sing and

sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.  
spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.  
give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.  
wor - ship; trust and love God more than all.

This hymn addressed to a newly-baptized child begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

TEXT: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980  
MUSIC: V. Earle Copes, 1959  
Text © 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner

KINGDOM  
8.7.8.7  
(alternate tune: STUTTGART)

## Children's Worship

Nancy Deison & Janice Smith

(Children up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade may leave the Sanctuary at this time.

Following worship, parents should pick up their child in room 6.)

## **Call to Confession**

The one who calls us to repent, hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness. Let us pray together the prayer of confession printed in your bulletin followed by your own silent prayer.

## **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**Good and gracious God, we are creatures of dust, ignorant of your revelation, misunderstanding your life, death, and resurrection among us, needing forgiveness. We repent of our failure to give as you have given to us. We beg your mercy for our fallen world. We seek your word, that we may live with the faith of Jesus. Be our solace in this life and always. We ask this as your own children, wholly and incomplete. Forgive us and lead us.**

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

In the name of God, your plea for absolution has been heard. God's promises are sure: your sins are forgiven. Amen.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Holy God, by your Spirit reveal your radical, surprising love; come to us through your holy word, and let us hear what you are saying. Amen.

**First Reading**

**Luke 24:36b-48**

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

**Music Ministry**

*Irish Folk Song*  
arr. Carlton Young

“Be Thou My Vision”  
Sanctuary Choir

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.  
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence, my light.

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my True word.  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord.  
Thou my Great Father and I Thy true son.  
O Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

High King of Heaven, my victory won.  
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall.  
O still be my vision, Thou ruler of all.

**Second Reading**

**Acts 3:12-19**

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

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz**

# In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

## Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)  
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)  
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)  
F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)  
Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."

Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

## **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.**

## **Prayer for the People and 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**

As Jesus gave himself fully for us and then appeared to the disciples bringing peace, so let us now bring wholeness and healing to others through our tithes and gifts.

## Offertory

arr. David N. Johnson

### “Beautiful Savior”

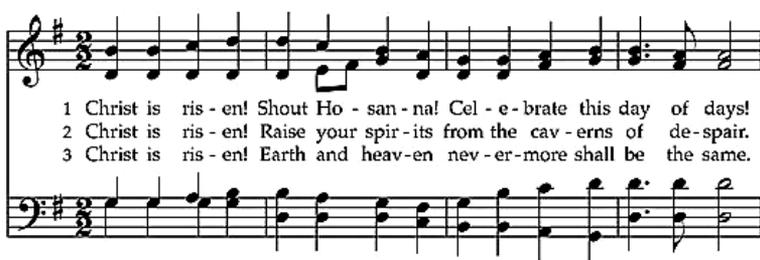
## Congregational Response Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth*

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.

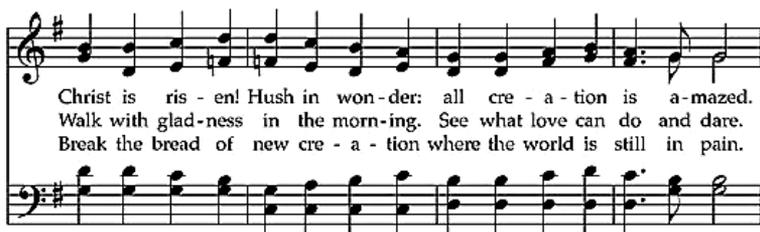
## Offertory Prayer

Lord God, we offer to you only a portion of what you have given us. All that we have is from your creative hand. All that we can give away we do through Jesus' love. All our renewal comes from the holy spirit's wisdom. Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may have joy; In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248



1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.  
3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des-ert all-sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown.  
 Drink the wine of res-ur-rec-tion, not a ser-vant, but a friend.  
 Tell its grim, de-mon-ic cho-rus: "Christ is ris-en! Get you gone!"

Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known.  
 Je-sus is our strong com-pan-ion. Joy and peace shall nev-er end.  
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho-san-na ev-ery-one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1984  
 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842, alt.  
 Text © 1986 *Hanon Publishing Company*

HYMN TO JOY  
 8.7.8.7.D

## Benediction

### The Peace of Christ

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

## Postlude

arr. Gordon Young

"Postlude on *Hymn to Joy*"

During the time of Stewardship we will not pass the offering plate. If you would like to contribute financially to the ministries of Grace First, you may do so by placing your offering in the designated box in the Narthex as you leave the Sanctuary, or by visiting this link.

<https://gracefirstpc.churchcenter.com/giving>

Liturgy taken from: Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion,  
Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1

Cover Art: Road to Emmaus | Joseph Goode on Patreon

## Worship Notes

How is God speaking to me today?  
(Music, Sermon, Scripture, Prayers, etc.)

What are the takeaways for today's Service?  
What is standing out to me?

How did the service challenge me?

Living in faith is something we do daily.  
What actions will I take based on today's service?