



# 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 Second Sunday of Easter  
April 11, 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**

arr. Sandra Eithun

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Handbell Ensemble

**Call to Worship (Responsive)**

Peace be with you.

**How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.**

Receive the Holy Spirit.

**It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of the Lord.**

**Prayer of Invocation**

Breathe in this place, O Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to open our minds, unlock our hearts, and enliven our faith so that we may welcome the risen one among us. Amen.

# 12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:  
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.  
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;  
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.  
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; arr. Caniadau y Cyssegr, 1839

ST. DENIO  
 11.11.11.11

## Children's Moment

## The Rev. David Slyter

Following the Children's Moment, kids grades pre-k—fifth are invited to go to Children's Worship. (Following the service you may pick your child(ren) up in room 6)

**Today's Teachers are Stephanie Eidson & Leslie Goeldner**

## **Call to Confession**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess together with the prayer of confession printed in the bulletin followed by your own silent prayer.

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

**You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name.**

### **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)**

We have an advocate with God—Jesus Christ, the righteous one—who offered his life in love to save the world from sin. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Prayer of Illumination**

God of all who doubt and believe, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life—Jesus Christ—our Lord and our God. Amen.

## **First Reading**

**1 John 1:1—2:2**

The word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God**

## **Music Ministry**

Gilbert Martin

“That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright”

That Easter day with joy was bright, the sun shone  
out with fairer light, when to their longing eyes  
restored, the apostles saw their newly risen Lord.

Alleluia!

O Jesus, King of gentleness, do you yourself our  
hearts possess that we may give you all our days  
the willing tribute of our Easter praise.

Alleluia!

All praise, O risen Lord, we give to you, who died,  
again does live; to God the Father equal praise,  
and God the Holy Ghost, our song we raise.

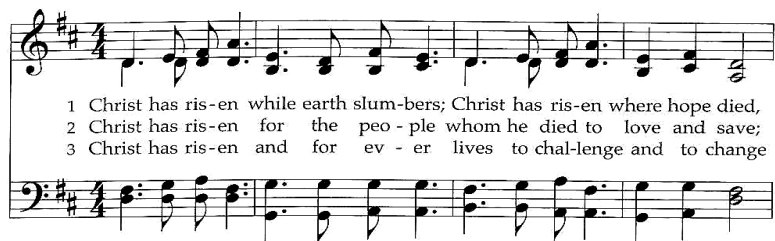
Alleluia!

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

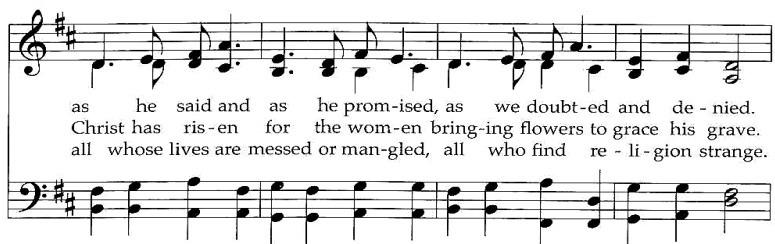
### Sermon

### The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

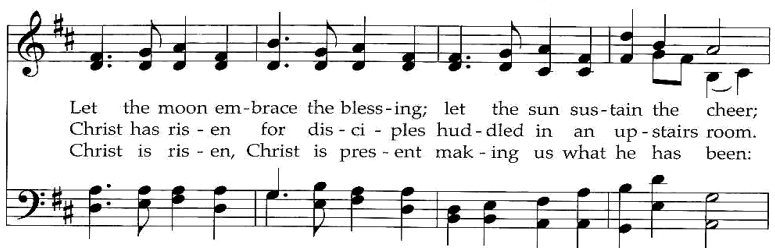
## 231 Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers



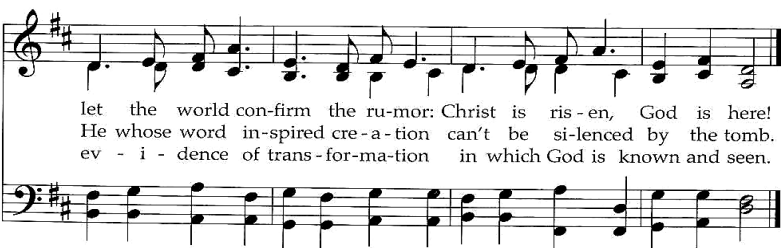
1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,  
2 Christ has ris-en for the peo-ple whom he died to love and save;  
3 Christ has ris-en and for ev-er lives to chal-lenge and to change



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."

## **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**

Remember the first believers—who shared one heart and soul, held their possessions in common, and distributed them to all in need. In that same spirit, let us present our offerings at the feet of the risen Lord.

## **Offertory**

arr. Wilbur Held

“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

## **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, we give you thanks and praise for light and life and love, and—above all—the presence of Jesus among us. By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



# 542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's  
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -  
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -  
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -  
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -

fold you:  
 vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 round you:  
 fore you:

After writing the first stanza of his "Christian Good-bye," the author sent it to two composers, one celebrated and one unknown, to see how each would set it. This is the second person's tune, which the author found more effective and used for the hymn's first publication.

EXT: Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880, alt.  
 USIC: William C. Torner, 1880

GOD BE WITH YOU  
 9.8.8.9  
 (alternate tune: RANDOLPH 541)

## Benediction

Let your life be a sign of Christ's life so that others may come to believe that the Lord is risen indeed!

## **The Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you**

## **Postlude**

Felix Mendelssohn

“Sonata II: Allegro Maestoso”

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

Cover Art: Mosaic at the Washington National Cathedral  
by Rowan & Irene LeCompte

## **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?