

WELCOME ALL
TO
EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE



APRIL 4, 2021

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 2408 N. NAVARRO ST. | VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday

*For everyone's safety,
please wear masks and maintain
social distancing at all times.*

Prelude “And the Stone Shall Roll Away”

- E. L. Ashford, 1948/arr.—Robert Wyatt, 1994

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Sentences

One: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Opening Hymn: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

No. 123

Prayer of Adoration

One: Glory to you, O God:
you have won victory over death,
raising Jesus from the grave
and giving us eternal life.

**All: Glory to you, O Christ:
for us and for our salvation you overcame death
and opened the gate to everlasting life.**

One: Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:
you lead us into the truth.

**All: Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity,
now and forever. Amen.**

Litany for Easter

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

One: This is the good news we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

One: That Christ died for our sins, and was buried,
and rose again on the third day.

All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

One: He appeared to Peter, and to the twelve,
and to many faithful witnesses.

All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

One: At last he came to us, that we might come to believe
and proclaim this good news to the world.

All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Invitation to Confession

Jesus' rising from the dead assures us
that we, too, have been given new life.

Let us repent of our sin before God and one another,
certain of God's mercy.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**All-knowing, all-powerful God,
we confess that, even on this most holy day,
we are unable to believe in the victory over death
shown to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
We confess our utter dependence on you not only for life
but also for faith, hope, and love.**

**Without your astonishing appearance to our ancestors
and your stunning presence throughout the ages,
we would be lost.**

**Forgive us and transform us,
that in every way our work and prayer will
make whole what is broken and give peace on earth. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison (*singing*)

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon

By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors,
the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and
our salvation.

You shall not die but live.

The rejected cornerstone has become your strength and
your song.

Believe in God, Friends!

Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Gloria Patri

- *H.W. Greatorex, 1851*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen, amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate

the presence of your risen Word.

Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit

so that we may proclaim the good news
of eternal and abundant life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

P. 652 in the Old Testament

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Anthem: “In the End of the Sabbath”

Solo by Dawn Neel

- *Oley Speaks, 1874-1948*

Second Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18

P. 114 in the New Testament

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know where they have laid him.”

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

The two were running together,

but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.

He saw the linen wrappings lying there,

and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head,

not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for

as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid him.”

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,

but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,

“Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him,
and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her,

“Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go to my brothers and say to them,

‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,

“I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sermon: The Empty Tomb

Rev. Jim DeMent

John 20:1: Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn: “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

No. 104

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostle’s 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 at 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

One: Living God,

All: **hear our prayer.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, with grateful hearts

we thank you for your many blessings.

Receive these gifts from us for the sake of those in need,

in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,

one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

One: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: **therefore let us keep the feast!**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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(continued)

In every time and every age, O God,
it is good and faithful that we give you thanks,
for your mercy is sure
and your steadfast love endures forever.

In your compassion you gave us Christ Jesus,
who sets us free from death
and leads us to life eternal.

And so, with all creation,
with all the needy and hungry ones,
with all those who have enough and plenty,
with creatures large and small,
with sun and moon and stars,
and with the saints of every age,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (UNISON):

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O God, creator of all things.
By your power and love you continue
to deliver your people from bondage,
thwart the designs of evil,
show the way through the wilderness,
turn hardship into righteousness,
and reveal your hand upholding the just.

Blessed are you, O Christ, servant of the universe.
You came among us to feed and heal and teach,
to confound the haughty,
to confuse the deceivers,
to challenge the wrong-hearted,
and, in all these things,
to give hope to those who long for peace.

Remembering our Lord's self-giving love,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF FAITH (UNISON):

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Blessed are you, O Spirit, giver of life.
You give us words when we have none;
you fill us with vision when we have the most need;
you give us voice to proclaim our faith in every hour.
Be our guide and teacher, today and always.

Come now, O Prince of Peace,
Spirit of Love,
Breath of Life.
Bring to all this hurting world the joy that Mary knew,
and teach us to proclaim with her,
"I have seen the Lord!"

In the unity of the Holy Trinity,
in gratitude for this great day of resurrection,
we praise you, God of all that is,
now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Here at this table we celebrate resurrection
as you feed us with the bread and wine.
And as much as we might prefer
to stay here in this protected place,
you send us back to our work-
only it is no longer the same work
because we know you are with us and in us,
shaping and transforming us
to be your witnesses in the world.

**All: Nourished in body, mind, and spirit,
may all that we say and do
give you glory. Amen**

Closing Hymn: "Thine Is the Glory"

No. 122

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "A Joyful Ring"

- Barbara Kinyon

We have reproduced below the lyrics of the hymns selected for this morning's worship service. All the hymns below are either in the public domain or have been reproduced, under license, from *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville: 1990) or from Christian Copywrite Licensing International (*ccli.com*). If you are worshiping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. If you are worshiping with us in the Sanctuary, we invite you to contemplate the lyrics as Robert Wyatt, our Choirmaster, plays the melodies. Under our current Health Protocols, we must refrain from singing out loud, but that does prevent us from finding comfort, hope, strength, and courage in these familiar hymns. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1	Verse 3
Verse 2	Verse 4

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
Unto Christ our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Christ Is Risen, Shout Hosanna!

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
All creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
See, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
Bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
From the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
Not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
Nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
Where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna, everyone!

Thine Is the Glory

Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.

No more we doubt Thee, Glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without Thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors,
Thro' thy deathless love;
Bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness,
Hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting

Refrain:

Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Leonard “Mac” McCameron	Kathleen McCameron
Roland Merrill	Sarah Waldrop	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)	
Samantha Skaggs (Niece of Roxanna and Henry Hauschild)	John & Jere Swoboda (Prior FPC Members)	Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)	

**For caregiving concerns—please contact:
Jack Kleinecke (361. 212.3229); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)**

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Sunday, April 11
10:30 AM Worship Service

*A copy of our
“COVID-19 Pandemic
Public Health and Safety Protocols
for In-Person Gatherings
at the Church”
can be obtained as you enter the church
or at our website:
www.fpcofvictoria.org.*

**FPC Victoria Servant Leadership
Session Members**

Jim DeMent, Moderator
Jack Kleinecke, Clerk of Session
John Horadam, Worship
Billy Leske, Building & Grounds
Lynn McAuley, Caregiving & Fellowship
Dawn Neel, Christian Education
Susan Salinas, Worship
Jim Stokes, Treasurer, Finance
Gayla Whitaker, Caregiving & Fellowship
Bonnie Wilkinson, Asst. Clerk, Mission & Outreach

Other

Paula Leske, Presbyterian Women
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School
Shelley Hartman, Dawn Neel, and Helen Resendez,
Kids for Christ, Vacation Bible School
Henry Hauschild, Historian

Pastor’s Notes

Our Bulletin cover this Easter morning displays a contemporary picture of the “Garden Tomb,” located in Jerusalem, which is considered to be the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea and hence the place where Jesus’ body was placed after his crucifixion (John 19:38-42). Notice the ledge in front of the tomb on which a large, circular stone (standing upright) may be rolled.

The more famous site claiming to be the location of Jesus’ tomb is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, also in Jerusalem.

For Christians, however, the most important fact about the tomb is not where it was located but that it was empty! “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen” (Luke 24:4). Happy Easter!

Clergy, Music, and Administration

Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor
Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster
Tasha Wolf, Office Administrator

Office Hours

Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
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