

WELCOME ALL
TO
EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE



HE IS RISEN —
HE IS RISEN INDEED!

APRIL 9, 2023

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
April 9, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday

Prelude “The Risen Christ / Lift High the Cross” - *Gilbert M. Martin, 1996 / Sidney Huo Nicholson, 1916*

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: Beloved church,
behold the victory of our God:
Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

All: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: Sin and death shall reign no more.

All: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: Let this place resound with joy

All: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Thanks be to God.

***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.**

**Please stand in body or spirit*

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

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 (*unison*)

**Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit
we have been raised from the waters of baptism
to share in your glorious resurrection.
Yet we have not lived as Easter people.
We are unsure of your promise,
confused about your will,
and afraid in the face of danger.
Like Mary, we weep at the tomb,
but do not recognize your presence.
Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know
you with confidence.
Whenever we are tempted to fear death,
give us courage to confess your Easter victory.
Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts,
keep our minds on your reconciling love.
Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil,
reveal again to us your triumph over
the destructive powers of oppression.
Forgive us our sin and let our lives be
a testimony to your salvation
through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Kyrie Eleison (*unison*)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news of God's promise:
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

**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

Almighty God,
by the power of your Spirit
roll away the stone
and reveal to us the Word of Life. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-18

P. 565 in the Old Testament

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

Anthem: "You Raise Me Up"

Solo by Joey Farrell

- Rolf Lovlend

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 Easter Story

Rev. Jim DeMent

John 20:18: Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; . . .

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** "Christ Is Alive!"

No. 108

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Alleluia, Alleluia

-Donald Fishel, 1973

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, all heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

**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.
Amen.**

***Affirmation of Faith (The Apostle's Creed)** (*unison*)

**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.**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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.**

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 Magdalene 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: Gracious God, we give you thanks
that by the witness of your word
and the sharing of this meal
you have opened our hearts and eyes
to the presence of Christ among us.

**All: Now send us forth from this place
by the power of your Spirit
to tell this good news to the world:
The Lord has risen indeed! Amen.**

***Closing Hymn:** "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

No. 115

***Charge**

***Benediction:**

***Congregational Response** (*unison*)

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880/William G Tomer, 1880

**God be with you until we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you 'till we meet agai**

**'Till we meet, 'till we meet
'Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
'Till we meet, till we meet
God be with you 'till we meet again.**

Postlude: "Thine Is the Glory"

- George Frederick Handel, 1748

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 worshipping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1
Verse 2

Verse 3
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 Alive!

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
Be saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life,
Our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war,
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Come, you faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness;
God has brought his Israel
Into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot
Through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ has burst his prison,
And from three days' sleep in death
As a sun hath risen;
Now rejoice, Jerusalem,
And with true affection
Welcome in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection!



In the spirit of the Easter Season, this morning we will be taking a special offering to support the “One Great Hour of Sharing” of Presbyterian Mission.

Your generous contribution will be used to support the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s efforts to provide disaster assistance, hunger relief, and self-development among “those who have the least.”

Jesus said, “The righteous will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’” And of course, Jesus’ response was “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:37, 40).

Please use the special envelope inserted in your Bulletin to make a generous response to our One Great Hour of Sharing appeal. Seal the envelope with a prayer, and kindly place it in the offering plate during our Presentation of Tithes and Offerings. May God bless us all this joyful Easter morning!



<u>Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests</u>			
Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Joey Farrell	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)
Kathleen McCameron	Linda Patterson	Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)	Mikey Ruddock
Michael Cabrera (Grandson of Martha Tarkington)	Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)		
For caregiving concerns—please contact: Lynn McAuley (979.248.6238)			
<u>FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service</u>		<u>FPC Victoria Servant Leadership Session Members</u>	
<u>Monday April 10</u> 2:00 PM Mary and Martha Circle 6:00 PM Session Meeting		Jim DeMent, Moderator <u>Class of 2023</u> John Horadam, Building & Grounds Lynn McAuley, Ass’t Clerk, Caregiving & Fellowship Bonnie Wilkinson, Clerk of Session, Membership <u>Class of 2024</u> Frances Byrne, Caregiving & Fellowship, Personnel Patrick Patterson, Building & Grounds, Finance Becky Richter, Christian Education, Mission & Outreach <u>Class of 2025</u> Donald Anderson, Mission & Outreach Leila Galvan, Christian Education Camille Miller, Worship	
<u>Thursday April 13</u> 9:30 AM Adele Carsner Young Circle		<u>Other</u> Dawn Neel, Treasurer Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School Jim Stokes, Assistant Treasurer	
<u>Sunday, April 16</u> 9:30 AM 'Prayers and Poetry' Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class 10:30 AM Worship Service			
<u>Pastor’s Notes</u>			
<p>After John hesitates but then enters the empty tomb, he sees Jesus’ discarded graveclothes and records that he “saw and believed.” But he follows that confession with “for as yet [we] did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead” (John 20:8-9). If John did not yet understand that Jesus must be resurrected, what was it that he “believed?”</p> <p>One explanation put forth by Bible scholars is that John believed, without yet understanding that Jesus would appear to his disciples after his death, that Jesus was in God’s presence. The clue to this interpretation lies in the graveclothes, especially the facecloth that had been “rolled up in a place by itself” (John 20:7).</p> <p>As a devout, practicing Jew, John would have known that no veil could be worn in the presence of God. In Exodus 34:33-35, Moses covered his face with a veil after he delivered God’s commandments to the Hebrews, but whenever Moses went before God to speak with him, he took the veil off. Jesus likewise would not need to have his face covered in the presence of God. Even before experiencing the resurrection of Jesus in the flesh, John would have known that Jesus needed no veil since he was now with his Father.</p>			
<u>Clergy, Music, and Administration</u> Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster Erica Colding, Office Administrator		<u>Office Hours</u> Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM 361.575.2441 info@fpcofvictoria.org	