

THE SERVICE FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, March 31, 2024

10:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Service



GATHER

*Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.
Please remember to turn cell phones and pagers to silent for worship.*

Where you see an asterisk () please stand if you are able.
Words in **bold** are read by the congregation.*

*For our in-person congregation –
This worship service is being livestreamed to the internet,
and you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.*

*For our online congregation -
Let us know you are here! Post a greeting!
If you would like to, please share your prayer requests in the comment section
on Facebook and YouTube so all worshipping at home can see it. Thank you.*

PRELUDE

Alleluia

Theodore Dubois

INTROIT

Eternal Source of Light Divine

George Frederik Händel

From the Queen Anne Cantata

Alexandria Crichlow, soprano

Paul Lindenmann, trumpet

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives. Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Hippolytus (AD 190-236)

Christ is Risen
The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen
The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen
The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen
The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever

* HYMN 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

(see next page for hymn)

It seems likely that this beloved Easter text began in Latin and moved through German before reaching English, where it combined with the present tune in the emerging English evangelical style, a reaction to the restrained one-note-per-syllable psalmody that preceded it.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-3, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740

Spanish trans. Juan Bautista Cabrera, alt.; Korean trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea

MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; adapt. from *The Compleat Psalmodist*, 1749

Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

EASTER HYMN

7.7.7.7 with alleluias

232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host,

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus, Child of Mary
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, Savior of the World,
Make peace within us.

Christ, Ruler of the Universe:
Be with us and for us, wherever life takes us.

**When our faith
stands at the grave,
grieving
for a stone that's rolled away,
forgive us.**

**When our faith
is short of
understanding
though the truth is there to see,
forgive us.**

**When our faith,
beset by doubt,
sees no further
than an empty tomb today,
forgive us.**

**Bring to mind
the cry of Mary,
'I have seen the Lord!'
and grant us faith to believe!**

(A time of silence is kept during which individual confessions may be offered.)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE 249, VERSE 1

Because You Live, O Christ

(singing together)

1. Be - cause you live, O Christ,
the gar - den of the world has come to flow - er;
the dark - ness of the tomb
is flood - ed with your res - ur - rec - tion pow - er.
The stone has rolled a - way
and death can - not im - pris - on!
O sing this Eas - ter day,
for Je - sus Christ has ris - en,
has ris - en, has ris - en,
has ris - - - - en!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of ten staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line starts with '1. Be - cause you live, O Christ,'. The second line continues with 'the gar - den of the world has come to flow - er;'. The third line is 'the dark - ness of the tomb'. The fourth line is 'is flood - ed with your res - ur - rec - tion pow - er.'. The fifth line is 'The stone has rolled a - way'. The sixth line is 'and death can - not im - pris - on!'. The seventh line is 'O sing this Eas - ter day,'. The eighth line is 'for Je - sus Christ has ris - en,'. The ninth line is 'has ris - en, has ris - en,'. The tenth line is 'has ris - - - - en!'. The music is written in a simple, clear style suitable for a congregational hymn.

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

We share peace with a nod or a bow, perhaps with hand on heart or folded hands, or with the ASL sign for peace. If worshipping from home, greet each other by sending a text, a wave or comment on Facebook or YouTube.

*** RESPONSE OF PRAISE 249, VERSE 3**

Because You Live, O Christ

(singing together)

3. Be - cause you live, O Christ,
the rain-bow of your peace will span cre-a-tion;
the col - ors of your love
will draw all hu-man-kind to ad-o - ra-tion.
The stone has rolled a - way
and death can - not im - pris - on!
O sing this Eas - ter day,
for Je - sus Christ has ris - en,
has ris - en, has ris - en,
has ris - - - - en!

WORDS OF WELCOME

*Please fill out the red Friendship Pad in each pew.
Newcomers please leave us your address and contact information!
Then, pass the folder the length of the pew and back.*

ENCOUNTER

ANTHEM

*The Heavens Are Telling
From The Creation, Hob. XXI:2*

Franz Josef Haydn

*The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of his work displays the firmament;
Today that is coming speaks it the day,
The night that is gone to following night.
The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of his work displays the firmament;
In all the lands resounds the word,
never unperceived, ever understood.
The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
- ² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
- ¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”
- ¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

- ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
- ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Afterwards, children ages 4-7 may go with Ms. Kathy Moore to Godly Play.

Parents can pick up their children following worship in Rooms 110 & 113.

*Older children, grades 2-5, who normally attend The Worship Bridge
will return to their seats to experience a full worship service with their family.*

(It is the church's policy to not put images of children on the livestream.)

**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.**

SECOND LESSON

John 20:1-18

¹Early 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. ²So 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.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and 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. ¹³They 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.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?” 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.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus 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.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE 243
(singing together)

Be Not Afraid

Taizé

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a choral response. Each system consists of a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The music is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are: "Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!". The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

SERMON

It All Makes Sense Today

Rev. Kenneth Page

(after the sermon, we observe a time of silence and prayer)

RESPOND AND SERVE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(together)*

Yes. It can happen.

Yes. It can take place.

Yes. God can do it.

After all, the angel said "Do not be afraid."

After all, the tomb was found empty.

After all, the Spirit, "will pray for you."

After all, God wants peace and reconciliation

After all, God's name is "justice."

After all, God is "liberation."

Yes. It can happen.

Yes. It can take place.

Yes. God can do it.

1. How can it be, the One who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice.
To conquer every sting of death
Sing, sing hallelujah!
2. For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their friend and king,
Christ, Christ, He is risen!

Refrain:

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!
Oh, sing hallelujah!
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

3. Where doubt and darkness once had been,
They saw Him and their hearts believed;
But blessed are those who have not seen
Yet, sing hallelujah!
4. Once bound by fear now bold in faith,
They preached the truth and power of grace.
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life, life everlasting.

Refrain:

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing hallelujah!
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

5. The power that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save.
He frees our hearts to live His grace:
Go tell of His goodness!

Refrain: (sing 2 times)

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing hallelujah!
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Bridge:

He is risen, He's alive, He's alive! Heaven's gates are opened wide!
He's alive, He's alive! Now in heaven glorified!
He's alive, He's alive! Heaven's gates are opened wide!
He's alive, He's alive! Now in heaven glorified!

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

CONCERNS AND REMEMBRANCES

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND CONCERN

CONCLUDING PRAYER *(together)*

**Risen Lord, hear our cry for communities of faith –
that we retain memory of being together
that we embrace unity in the reality of distance
that we foresee a future side-by-side, hand-in-hand
hear our cry for communities of faith...
that we sense purpose beyond ourselves
that we perceive the needs of creation
that we stretch ourselves to respond
hear our cry for communities of faith...
that our ways be formed by Your Way
that our lives be shaped by Your Life
that our love be Your Love**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Gaelic Alleluia

Craig Courtney

*Joy dawned again on Easter Day
The sun shone out with fair array,
When to their longing eyes restored,
The apostles saw their risen Lord - Alleluia!*

*O Jesus, King of gentleness,
Do Thou thyself our hearts possess
That we may give Thee all our days
The willing tribute of our praise - Alleluia!*

*Oh Lord of all, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide;
From Ev'ry weapon death can wield
Thine own redeemed forever shield - Alleluia!*

*O sons, daughters, of the King,
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting!
Alleluia!*

* DOXOLOGY 609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures
 high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise
 God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it
 one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

SEND AND BLESS

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Tom Woods

* HYMN 246

Christ Is Alive
 (see next page for hymn)

Truro

(Members of the congregation who would like to join the choir to sing the Hallelujah Chorus are invited to make their way to the choir during the singing of this hymn.)

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE

“Hallelujah” from *Messiah*

George Frederik Händel

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!
The kingdom of this world has become
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ;
and he shall reign forever and ever.

King of kings and Lord of lords!
And he shall reign forever and ever!

POSTLUDE

Toccata

John Weaver



EASTER EGG HUNT after the 10:30 a.m. service

Children nursery through first grade will find eggs on the church’s front lawn.

Children second through fifth grade will hunt on the church’s back lawn.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, education, mission and common life of First Church.

During Today's Worship

Please turn all cell phones to "silent" when in the Sanctuary. Flash photography during worship is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

If your infant or child needs care during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. Child care for infants and children under four years old is available all morning. The nursery is in Room 159. We have a texting system to alert you if you are needed while in the worship service. The ushers will be glad to help you.

Worship programs for children include: *Godly Play* is available for younger children (age 4 - grade 1) during the 10:30 a.m. services.

Worship bags are available to enhance the worship experience for children. Please return everything (except the bulletins) to the bags and return the bags to the ushers at the end of the service.

If you are new to First Church

Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month.

Disabled persons entrance is through the Main Entrance in the rear of the building.

We invite you to become a member of First Church. Please speak with Pastor Ken or call the church office to set a time to meet.

First Church Cares

To notify the pastor of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Pastor Ken Page, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

Visit the church's website, www.firstpreshc.org for more info.

Program Staff

If you need to talk with one of the staff, please contact them directly via email.

Rev. Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

For building emergencies contact, Church Sexton, Woody Collins, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

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The First Presbyterian Church
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Ministers: All members of the congregation

Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor
Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education
Dr. Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries
Caroline Smith, Church Administrator
Pat Travers, Bookkeeper
Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton
Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator
Marla Youkers, Nursery Coordinator
Sarah Reinhardt, Nursery Assistant

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County is a congregation of
the Presbytery of Baltimore in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

- ✦ We are an Earth Care Congregation ✦
- ✦ We are a Matthew 25 Congregation ✦

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church
Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115