

Festival Celebration in Worship
Easter Sunday
April 1, 2018

We believe the words of Jesus reflect the heart of the Divine:
"I will never turn away anyone who comes to me." John 6:37

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Congregation, please stand if you are able.*

PRELUDE

What Harvest Half So Sweet Is Thomas Campion
Eli Simantel and Sierra Sparrow, trumpet (1567-1620)
Otmar Borchard & Daven Tjaarda-Hernandez, trombone

Variations on the Easter Hymn 'O Filii et Filiae' (Glory to God Hymnal #235) Naji Hakim
(Lebanon/France, 1955-)

INTROIT (Choir)

In the Bulb There Is a Flower Natalie Sleeth

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

GOSPEL READING

John 20:1-18 Rev. Jennifer Martin

OPENING FANFARE

Fanfare for the Risen Christ Craig Sellar Lang
(New Zealand/England, 1891-1971)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive – from Acts 10:34-43)

One: Jesus walked the earth with God's message of peace, blessing all creation:

Many: Abundant life for all!

One: Jesus preached God's love--justice for the poor, full sharing of earth's bounty; his message was saturated...

Many: With hope and healing; forgiveness and welcome!

One: Worldly powers tried to stop him: led him to a tree and crucified him;
laid him in the earth: a garden tomb. Three days in the earth, and then,

Many: Like the seed which dies to live, so Jesus arose to new life!

One: And so let us celebrate the risen Christ, alive in our midst even today.

**Many: May we be hands and feet, hearts and minds of that risen Christ,
proclaiming the good news of abundant life for all.**

One: Now let us worship God, for Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed! (*Watch as the shroud falls from the Cross*)

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 232**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today Glory to God Hymnal

PROCLAIMING RESURRECTION

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

This Joyful Eastertide George Woodward (1848-1934)
Dutch folk melody arr by John Ferguson

*This joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this morrow.*

*My flesh in hope shall rest
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number.*

*Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain.
But now has Christ arisen.*

*Death's flood has lost its chill
Since Jesus crossed the river.
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

This is the witness of scripture.
Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 25:1-10

SERMON

An Easter Meal

Lorne Bostwick, Teaching Elder

***HYMN 500**

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

Glory to God Hymnal

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S TABLE

All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table. We come to this Table because we are invited and not because we have any worthiness of our own that gives us a right to come. So join the community of faith as we join our Lord in this celebration of life.

**THE INVITATION &
PREPARING THE TABLE**

THE SHROUD: This reminds us of the cloth in which they wrapped the body of Jesus.

On Easter morning it was found empty, lying in the tomb where Christ's body had been placed. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

RESPONSE: Christ is risen indeed!

THE FRAGRANT OIL

This fragrance reminds us that very early on Easter Day some women came to the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for proper burial. The women were the first to hear of Jesus' resurrection. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

RESPONSE: Christ is risen indeed!

THE STONE:

This stone reminds us that on the resurrection morning, the stone that sealed the tomb was rolled away. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

RESPONSE: Christ is risen indeed!

THE BREAD:

This bread reminds us that on the first Easter evening, Jesus walked and talked with two of his followers on the road to Emmaus. It was not until he broke bread with them that they recognized who he was. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

RESPONSE: Christ is risen indeed!

THE WINE:

This wine, representing Christ's blood, helps us to remember that Jesus gave his whole life for us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

RESPONSE: Christ is risen indeed!

THE CROSS:

The cross you see is an empty cross. Jesus is not dead. He is risen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

RESPONSE: Christ is risen indeed!

THE CALL TO PRAYER *(Responsive)*

The God of every morning be with you.

And also with you.

People of Easter morning, lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the One who has raised Jesus from the grave.

People of Easter's joy, give thanks to the One who raises us to new life.

We sing our hallelujahs to the God of everlasting love.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Responsive)*

On this day of joy and hope....

singing our Easter joy to you:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of the empty grave.

Glad songs of resurrection joy are offered to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes bearing your steadfast love.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of every day...

we trust that mystery we call faith:

**On the first day, Christ shaped all that is good and beautiful;
on the first day of the week, Christ swallowed up death forever;
on the last day, Christ will call us to the Table of the Lamb.**

It is here at this Table...

as we pray together saying

AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Unison)*

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Communion pour le matin de Pâques

(Communion for Easter Morn)

Charles Tournemire

(France, 1870-1939)

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(Unison)*

Gracious God, we thank you for the life of Christ and his invitation to join him in a ministry of reconciliation to the whole world. Here the past, the present, and the future are caught up in the Spirit of your love incarnate and eternal in Jesus Christ. You have fed us with one gospel and let us drink of one Love, which unites us in our salvation, and in Christ's ongoing work, now and forevermore. We give you thanks and glorify your name. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Christ is Arisen, Let Us Sing

Volckmar Leisring

(1588-1637)

arr. by Kenneth T. Kosche

Christ is arisen, let us sing,

Today the grave has lost its sting. Alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring,

To Christ our Savior, heav'nly King. Alleluia!

INVITATION TO OFFERING *(Leader)*

On One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, the church supports ministries of economic and agricultural development; disaster preparedness and response; refugee advocacy and resettlement; and health care and education in over ninety countries, including the United States. It also supports the self-development of people, bringing economic and social justice to communities of poverty. You have an opportunity to join sisters and brothers all over the world and ecumenically across denominations in making this offering in the name of Christ. Such work of reclamation, redemption, reconciliation and salvation is God's work. All of creation is God's gift to us, including our very lives. What we do with our lives and with creation is our gift to God. Let us be about the business of building God's realm, a healed Earth where there is enough for all.

OFFERTORY

Ayre
Brass Quartet

John Dowland
(1563-1626)

*DOXOLOGY *(Unison)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Christ, whose mighty power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Unison)*

Loving God, you spared nothing in sending your Son, Jesus Christ. As we have died to self in Christ, our lives are now not our own, but they are hidden with Christ. Use our gifts that we present to you, and use us, to alleviate the suffering of people throughout the world. May we witness to the sacrifice of Christ through lives of service and self-denial. We pray this in the name of the One who loved us and gave himself for us: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 238

Thine Is the Glory

Glory to God Hymnal

BENEDICTION

One: Go forth to live boldly, as if death has no power over you.
Live as if your lives count for something--because they do.
God calls us in abundant love to serve something greater than our own finite lives,
a greater cause for which we would even lay down our lives, as Jesus did.
For just as death on a tree could not stop the Christ,
so our lives in service to God become larger than ourselves,
part of the ever in-breaking realm of God—
that realm of justice and truth, of enough for all and not too much for any one.
Go in peace, to love, to serve, and to proclaim:
Christ is risen! Alleluia!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Please remain seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

arr. by John Behnke (USA, 1953-)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP TODAY. We are glad to have you with us today and hope you find this community of faith welcoming. We hope you will come again!

Rev. Lorne Bostwick, Pastor
Rev. Jennifer Martin, Associate Pastor

Chancel Choir, Cole Blume, Director
Dan Rinnan, organist
Eli Simantel and Sierra Sparrow, trumpet
Otmar Borchard and Daven Tjaarda-Hernandez, trombone

