



Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Service of Worship
Easter Sunday

April 16, 2017



11:05am

Gathering all People in a Caring Christian Community

PRELUDE "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" arr. Michael Thomas
Linda Dover

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Fred Holbrook
(Please sign and pass the Grace Greetings book at this time. Create community.)

INTROIT "Awake, Awake!" Music by Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir Words by Fanny Crosby
Sons and daughters of the King, let your endless praises ring:
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; He lives, no more to die.

VESTING THE SANCTUARY

*CALL TO WORSHIP Fred Holbrook

One: Christ the Lord is risen today!
All: Alleluia!
One: Light has chased away the darkness,
All: Death has been replaced by life!
One: Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world,
All: But now the tomb is empty! He is alive!
One: Alleluia! Christ the Lord is risen!
All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



*HYMN 232 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" EASTER HYMN

COME AS A CHILD
(Nursery is available for children, birth through 4 year olds.)

*PRAYER FOR EASTER (unison)

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. After your resurrection, you appeared to your disciples; you breathed on them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. In Christ's resurrection, you gave joy and exultation to the whole creation. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ. Help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you. Through the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMNS AND RAISING THE CROSS OF RESURRECTION

(Those who wish are invited to place a flower on the cross, especially in memory of loved ones, while the congregation sings the following hymns. Ushers are posted at the steps to provide assistance.)

HYMN 250 (seated) "In the Bulb There is a Flower" PROMISE

HYMN 240 (seated) "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" ALLELUIA NO. 1

HYMN 251 (seated) "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia" MFURAHINI, HALELUYA
(st. 1 & 2 Chancel Choir, st. 3-5 Congregation)

ORGAN INTERLUDE "Adagio" by Charles-Marie Widor

*HYMN 826 (standing) "Lift High the Cross" CRUCIFER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER



*Equipping People to Develop and Share a
Faith That Works in Real Life*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 31:1-6 Darryl Prater
(Old Testament, page 733)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 10:34-43
(New Testament, page 129)

Holy wisdom, holy words! **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "The CRUX of the Gospel" Fred Holbrook

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison) Darryl Prater

In the death of Jesus Christ, God's way in the world seemed finally defeated. But death was no match for God. The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death.

Death often seems to prove that life is not worth living, that our best efforts and deepest affections go for nothing. We do not yet see the end of death.

But Christ has been raised from the dead, transformed and yet the same person. In his resurrection is the promise of ours. We are convinced the life God wills for each of us is stronger than the death that destroys us. The glory of that life exceeds our imagination but we know we shall be with Christ.

So we treat death as a broken power. Its ultimate defeat is certain. In the face of death we grieve. Yet in hope we celebrate life. No life ends so tragically that its meaning and value are destroyed. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Declaration of Faith, Presbyterian Church (USA)

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
All: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Sending People to Serve Christ in the World

*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE AND COMPASSION

One: May the peace of Christ be with you and everyone.

All: **And also with you and all others!**

(Let us greet one another with expressions of Christian love.)

*SUNG REFRAIN 240 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" ALLELUIA NO. 1
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Gi-ve thanks to the ris-en Lord.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Gi-ve praise to his name.

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

"Flute Clocks"

Linda Dover
by Joseph Haydn

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Surprising God, you invite us to your table and here we meet the risen Christ. Here ordinary bread becomes living bread and we discover our hearts burning within us. Transform our lives at this table that we may go out into your world to share the amazing good news of the One we meet here. Amen.

The Words of Institution

When passing the bread say: "This is the bread of life given for you."

When passing the wine/juice say: "This is the cup of hope poured out for you."

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(The trays contain **red wine** and **white grape juice**. If you prefer gluten-free crackers, notify an usher and an elder will bring them to you.)

Communion Music

"Exultate"

by Michael Helman

Charter Ringers

Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

Hymn 515 (seated)

"I Come with Joy"

DOVE OF PEACE

"Toccata on KING'S WESTON" by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Charter Ringers

arr. Matthew Compton

Prayer after Communion

HYMN (stand on cue) "Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise!"

arr. Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir, Instruments, & Congregation

(Congregation sings from insert on cue)

(Balloons are distributed as a reminder of the resurrection to people who have had an immediate family member die this year or had a life threatening illness/injury.)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"Lift High the Cross"

by Paul Manz

* = If convenient/able, please stand.

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