



Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Service of Worship — Easter Sunday

April 16, 2017

8:50am



Gathering all People in a Caring Christian Community

*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All: Death has been replaced by life!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!

*SINGING

Louder
by Matt Redman, Jonas Myron, and Jason Ingram

VESTING THE SANCTUARY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please sign and pass the Grace Greetings book at this time. Create community.)

COME AS A CHILD

(Nursery is available this morning for children, birth to 4 years old.)

*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 songs. Ushers are posted at the steps to provide assistance.)

SINGING

He Reigns
Praise Team by Peter Furler and Steve Taylor

Glorious Day
Congregation by Casting Crowns

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
(Old Testament, page 733) Jenna Kor

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) Jenna Kor

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.)

* SONG REFRAIN Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)
Congregation by Chris Tomlin

OFFERING OF WELCOME, GIFTS, AND MUSIC

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 O Praise the Name
Praise Team by Sampson, Hastings, and Usher

Amen (Because He Lives)
Praise Team by Cash, Gaither, Ingram, Maher, Carson, Gaither and Tomlin

We Believe
Congregation by Ryan, Fike, and Hooper

Prayer after Communion

*SINGING Prepare the Way by Ingram
(Balloons are distributed to people who have lost an immediate family member or had a life threatening illness/injury as a reminder of the resurrection.)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

** = If convenient/able, please stand.
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