

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 118)*

One: "This is the day which the Lord has made."

**All: "Let us rejoice and be glad in it."**

One: We have heard a rumor: he who we thought was dead is alive. Could it be true?

**All: He is risen! He is risen indeed!**

One: "This is the Lord's doing."

**All: "It is marvelous in our eyes."**

One: He is risen!

**All: He is risen indeed!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Thine Is the Glory" GtG 238

One: Thine is the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;

**All: endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.**

One: Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,

**All: kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.**

One: Lo! Jesus meets us,  
risen from the tomb;

**All: lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom.**

One: Let the church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,

**All: for the Lord now liveth;  
death hath lost its sting.**

One: No more we doubt thee,  
**All: glorious Prince of life!**  
One: Life is naught without thee;  
**All: aid us in our strife.**  
One: Make us more than conquerors  
through thy deathless love;  
**All: bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above.**

One: Thine is the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;  
**All: endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.**

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#### **\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Surprising God, you have done it again – done the unexpected...and then expected us to believe. The story is wonderful and glorious. But we tend not to believe. It is nice to hear the news again, and something about it thrills us. But we do not live as if it were true. Forgive us for disbelieving you. Touch us once again with your Easter sunrise. Dispel the darkness within us. And free us to the transformation of life found in an empty tomb and a resurrected Lord. Make us your Easter people. Amen.**

#### **\*SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Let us rejoice in the goodness and grace of the Lord!  
**All: Through the death of Christ we are forgiven. By the resurrection of Christ we are given new life.**  
One: So rejoice and be glad, and celebrate the good news of God's grace!  
**All: For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved, we are given new life. Amen. Alleluia!**

#### **\*THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

*(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)*

### **THE WORD**

#### **A SHARING**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 16:1-8

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “Has He Risen For Us?” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*(from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: God of mercy and new life...  
People: ...hear our prayer.

## THE EUCHARIST

### OFFERING

*Invitation*

*Reflection* "The Old Rugged Cross"  
Alto Sax and Piano duet

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**O God, giver of life,  
who sends the dawn and fills us with hope,  
you shower us with gifts so abundant,  
we cannot measure them all.  
You give us life itself  
and the power to befriend our companions in this world.  
Bless the gifts we offer, and our very lives,  
for the sake of those in need,  
for the sharing of your new life.  
In the name of our Resurrected Lord we pray.  
Amen.**

### SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Invitation to the Lord's Table*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Leader: Lift up your hearts.  
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
*(The prayer continues...)*

*The Lord's Prayer* (Traditional)

**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.**

*Breaking of the Bread*

*Communion of the People*

*(With the passing of the bread, please wait until all have been served so that all may partake together, reflecting our unity in Christ.)*

“Feed Us, Lord” GtG 501

One: Feed us, Lord.

**All: Feed us, Lord.**

One: In the broken bread,  
    be revealed again.

**All: Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.**

*(With the passing of the cup, please partake as soon as received as an expression of our personal relationship with Christ.)*

One: Quench us, Lord.

**All: Quench us, Lord.**

One: On this thirsty ground,  
    may your love flow down.

**All: Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.**

*Prayer*

One: Fill us, Lord.

**All: Fill us, Lord,  
    with the bread and wine  
    of the risen Christ.**

One: Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.

One: Lead us, Lord.

**All: Lead us, Lord,**

One: nourished here by Christ,

**All: given strength for life.**

**Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.**

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## SENDING

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Because You Live, O Christ” GtG 249

One: Because you live, O Christ,  
the garden of the world has come to flower;

**All: the darkness of the tomb  
is flooded with your resurrection power.**

One: The stone has rolled away  
and death cannot imprison!

**All: O sing this Easter day,  
for Jesus Christ has risen,**

One: has risen,

**Unison: has risen!**

One: Because you live, O Christ,  
the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;

**All: our cages of despair  
no longer keep us closed and life-denying.**

One: Because you live, O Christ,  
the rainbow of your peace will span creation;

**All: the colors of your love  
will draw all humankind to adoration.**

One: The stone has rolled away  
and death cannot imprison!

**All: O sing this Easter day,**

One: for Jesus Christ has risen,

**All: has risen,**

**Unison: has risen!**

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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor: ...And let the gathered people of God say...

**People: ...Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

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