

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

EASTER SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CHOIRAL INTROIT “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (GtG 232)

(The congregation will be invited to join in singing the 4th verse.)

4. **Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!**
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

(Public Domain)

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** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!” GtG 245

1. **"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!**
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. **Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!**
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!
3. **Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!**
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

4. **Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!**
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

Music Harm.: *Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434.*

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Dazzling God,
we are blinded to your majesty.
We have taken for granted the amazing wonder of your life.
You call us to hope,
but we despair.
You call us to work for peace,
but we doubt its power.
You call us to community,
but we judge and shun.
Transform us, Holy One,
by the joy of this Easter.
Save us from the calamity of our selfish ways.
Rescue us from all hurtful and destructive habits.
Forgive our broken promises,
heal our broken relationships,
lift our broken spirits,
so we may share in a new beginning and a new life
through the resurrection of Christ. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Let us rejoice in the goodness and grace of the Lord!
All: **Because Christ died, we receive forgiveness for our sins. Because he was raised from the dead, we receive new life in him.**
One: So rejoice and celebrate the good news!
All: **For by the grace of God we are loved and accepted, forgiven and restored through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia! Amen.**

***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

SCRIPTURE READINGS Mark 16:1-8

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Rolling Stone?” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers” GtG 231 (*Tune: #509*)

1. **Christ has risen while earth slumbers;
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!**

2. **Christ has risen for the people
whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
can't be silenced by the tomb.**

3. **Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.**

Words: *Used by permission through CCLI License
#11178434 / #2457662.*

Music: *Public Domain*

***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.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: God of Resurrection...
People: ...hear our prayer.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**We praise you, O God, and give you thanks
that you have given us such joy,
such grace, and such hope,
in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**As you offered Christ to the world,
so we would offer ourselves.
Let our lives be proof
of your forgiving love and empowering acceptance.
Let all our words and actions, our love and service
bear witness to your resurrection power;
for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus Christ. 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 (Contemporary)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and 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 we may partake together, as a community.)

Sing "Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed" GtG 496

Bread:

1. **Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
for thou art our food indeed.
Ever may our souls be fed**

**with this true and living Bread,
day by day with strength supplied
through the life of Christ who died.**

Cup:

- 2. Vine of heaven, thy love supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice.
'Tis thy wounds our healing give;
to thy cross we look and live.
Thou our life! O let us be
rooted, grafted, built on thee.**

(Public Domain)

(With the passing of the cup, please drink as you are served, as an expression of our personal relationship with Christ.)

Prayer

SENDING

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

- 1. Because you live, O Christ,
the garden of the world has come to flower;
the darkness of the tomb
is flooded with Your resurrection power.**

Refrain:

**The stone has rolled away
and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter day,
for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has risen!**

- 2. Because you live, O Christ,
the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;
our cages of despair
no longer keep us closed and life-denying.
*(Refrain)***
- 3. Because you live, O Christ,
the rainbow of your peace will span creation;
the colors of your love
will draw all humankind to adoration.
*(Refrain)***

Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 / #2457662.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: Receive the good news:

All: Christ is risen from the dead.

One: Tell the good news:

All: the power of death shall no more oppress us.

One: Live the good news:

All: we are free to love as he has loved us.

One: May the power of God's endless love

surround you and guide you,

this day and always.

And let the gathered people of God say...

All: ...Amen.

One: For he is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

POSTLUDE

The Prayer of Confession and Prayers of the People (adapted) are written by Teri McDowell Ott and used by permission. © Presbyterian Outlook, 2022.

The Prayers of the People (adapted), Prayer of Dedication, and Charge and Blessing are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012/2013/2014.

The Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Dedication are reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Gathered by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1994 by United Church Press.