

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

EASTER SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 118)*

One: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

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

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

One: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone."

All: "This is the Lord's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes."

One: So rejoice and sing praises and give your worship to God.
For Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

***OPENING HYMN** "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" GtG 232 *(Verses 1-3)*

1. **Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

2. **Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

3. **But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

Words: Stanzas 1-3, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740
Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; adapt. from *The Compleat
Psalmody*, 1749
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus,
we have proclaimed your glorious resurrection.
Yet we have not lived as Easter people.
We are unsure of your promise,
confused about your will,
and afraid in the face of danger.
Like Mary, we weep at the tomb,
but do not recognize your presence.
Call us by name, risen Lord,
that we may know you with confidence.
Whenever we are tempted to fear death,
give us courage to confess your Easter victory.
Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts,
keep our minds on your reconciling love.
Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil,
reveal again to us your triumph
over the destructive powers of oppression.
Forgive us our sin
and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation
through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from I John 4)*

One: "In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven."
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 be glad, and believe 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

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:1-18

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Vindicated!” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Christ Is Alive!” GtG 246

1. **Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**
2. **Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**
3. **In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**
4. **Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**
5. **Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**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,**

(continued...)

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.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Lord, have mercy.
All: Christ, have mercy.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds us, your generosity fills us to overflowing. Accept our offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. 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

(Please hold the bread so that we might partake of it together, to remind us of our participation in this sacrament as a community. Please drink the cup as you are served, reminding us of our individual participation in this sacrament and our personal commitment to our Lord.)

Sing: "Let Us Break Bread Together" GtG 525

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

(continued...)

2. **Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

3. **Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

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Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN “At the Font We Start Our Journey” StF 2114**

1. **At the font we start our journey,
in the Easter faith baptized;
doubts and fears no longer blind us,
by the light of Christ surprised.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope held out and realized.**

2. **At the pulpit we are fashioned
by the Easter tale retold
into witnesses and prophets,
by the power of Christ made bold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Faith proclaimed, yet still untold.**

3. **At the altar we are nourished
with the Easter gift of bread;
in our breaking it to pieces
see the love of Christ outspread.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Life embraced, yet freely shed.**

(continued...)

**4. At the door we are commissioned,
now the Easter victory's won,
to restore a world divided
to the peace of Christ as one.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter's work must still be done.**

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***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: ...And let the gathered people of God say...
All: ...Amen.
One: For Christ is risen!
All: He is risen indeed!

***RESPONSE** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" GtG 245 (*Verse 4*) [*Tune 232*]

**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!**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; adapt.
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POSTLUDE

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