

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, April 16, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on John 20:19-31)*

One: Christ is risen! He greets us with a word of peace.
All: **We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!**
One: Christ is risen! Locked doors and doubting hearts cannot keep him away.
All: **We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!**
One: Christ is risen! He comes to bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.
All: **We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!**

***OPENING HYMN** "The Day of Resurrection!" GtG 233

1. **The day of resurrection!**
Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.

2. **Let hearts be purged of evil**
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

3. **Now let the heavens be joyful;**
let earth its song begin;

(continued...)

**the round world keep high triumph
and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Victorious and gracious God, how quickly we forget that we are an Easter people. We fall into despair and have no hope. We forget you are with us and do not know your peace. We wander aimlessly in life, ignoring your sure signs to us. Forgive us, compassionate God. Come to us and touch us with your life-giving Spirit. Renew us by your resurrection hope. And fill us with the love of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on John 20)*

One: “Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you’.”

**All: The Living Christ is in our midst.
God’s mercy abounds,
and we are granted new birth into a living hope.**

One: In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God;
that is a promise of peace and joy.
Know that you are forgiven;
receive Christ’s peace;
and share that peace with one another.

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 20:1-23

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Angles in the Aftermath” 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.**

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Harmony*, 1825. *Public Domain.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Apostles' Creed*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

(continued...)

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: In your almighty mercy...
All: ...hear our prayer.

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.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Risen and redeeming God, you have given us more than we could ever give you in return. You are gracious and generous in your love. 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.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “The Risen Christ” GtG 257 (*Verses 1, 2, & 4*) [Tune 517]

**1. The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
from garden tomb through darkened city street,
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.**

**2. The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.**

**4. May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with the oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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