

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

EASTER SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 118)

One: Rejoice in the Lord! For Jesus Christ is risen today!
All: **He is risen indeed!**
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: Again I say, rejoice! For Christ is risen!
All: **He is risen indeed!**

***OPENING HYMN** “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” GtG 232

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!**
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!**

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

We would like to believe, O God, but we're not too sure of this resurrection thing. It seems incredible. It seems too good to be true. Then it also seems kind of scary, for we've never met someone come back from the dead. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us for counting you out when you had only begun to work. Forgive us for doubting you and your word. We believe...sort of; help us with our unbelief. By the power and presence of your Spirit, Teach us to trust your promises. Convince us in our heart of hearts, that we might believe – truly believe – the good news that we hear: that Jesus Christ is our Risen Lord and Savior. For it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! For the tomb is empty, and he is alive!
All: **Christ conquered death to restore us to life.**
One: Believe this good news. Live this resurrection.
All: **Hope in God's promise because we are forgiven in Jesus Christ.**
One: So rejoice, give thanks, and sing! And believe the good news:
Christ is risen!
All: **He is risen indeed!**

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
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 Luke 24:1-11

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Something’s Missing” by Pastor Bill Vincent

*HYMN “Thine Is the Glory” GtG 238

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

(continued...)

**Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.**

Refrain:

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

- 2. Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting.**

Refrain...

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

Refrain...

Words: Edmond Louis Budry, 1884; trans. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923, alt.
Music: JUDAS MACCABEUS, George Frederick Handel, 1748
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from "*A Declaration of Faith*")

**Jesus is our living Lord.
Jesus was dead and buried,
but God raised him from the dead.
The risen Lord appeared to his followers.
They recognized him as their Master
who had been crucified.**

(continued...)

Before Jesus left them,
 he commissioned them to proclaim to all people
 the good news of his victory over death,
 and promised to be with them always.
 We are certain that Jesus lives.
 He lives as God with us,
 touching all of human life with the presence of God.
 He lives as one of us with God.
 Because he shares our humanity
 and has bound us to himself in love,
 we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.
 We declare that Jesus is Lord.
 His resurrection is a decisive victory
 over the powers that deform and destroy human life.
 His lordship is hidden.
 The world appears to be dominated by people and systems
 that do not acknowledge his rule.
 But his lordship is real.
 It demands our loyalty and sets us free
 from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.
 We maintain that ultimate sovereignty
 now belongs to Jesus Christ
 in every sphere of life.
 Jesus is Lord!
 He has been Lord from the beginning.
 He will be Lord at the end.
 Even now he is Lord.

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 General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); adopted (1977) “as a
 contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study,
 liturgy, and inspiration, with the clear understanding that” it is not
 approved as a part of the *Book of Confessions*.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Resurrected Lord, by your powerful presence...
 All: ...renew our life in your love.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

With rejoicing in our hearts, we give you thanks, O God, for the new life we know in Christ. With eagerness, we share from the bounty we enjoy due to your goodness to us. Use these offerings, and use us, to share with the world the grace of resurrection, the joy of new life, and the gospel of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **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 as a community in unity with Christ.)

Sing "In the Singing" GtG 533

(next page...)

**1. In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in the Presence at this table
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.**

(With the passing of the cup, please partake as soon as received,
remembering how Christ comes to you.)

**2. In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1994

Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, 1996

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Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Christ Is Alive!” GtG 246 (*Verses 1-2, 4-5*)

- 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.**

(continued...)

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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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

***RESPONSE “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”**

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!**

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Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; adapt. from *The Compleat Psalmodist*, 1749
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POSTLUDE

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