

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday

ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Seasonal Color: White

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

9:45 a.m. Pre-Service Music:

"I Will Sing of My Redeemer" Todd Smith, Tony Wood, Chad Kates
(Laura Sparks, Soprano; Ray Rhinehart, Tenor)

"An Easter Celebration" arr. Joel Raney
(Brass Quintet and Organ)

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "Easter Fanfare" Kevin Hildebrand
(Brass Quintet and Organ)

*Call to Worship:

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*Prayer of Praise and Adoration

O God who was, is, and evermore shall be; to you belong all praise and glory. Angels in heaven announce the dawn of your eternal order; trumpets herald Christ's victory as the stone is rolled away; our mouths are opened to proclaim your mercies. We lift up our hearts to you, our Judge and Redeemer. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" arr. Douglas Wagner
(Brass Quartet and Organ)

Choir only: Alleluia, joy unending, praise ascending to the sky.

Death is vanquished, life has triumphed.

Christ is risen today! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christ is risen, Alleluia!

**All: Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**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!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

Choir only: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,

Christ is risen today!

*Litany for Easter

With the stone rolled away came emptiness

Of a tomb that held captive the Crucified, of the space that was once filled with death, of the cross that now pointed to greater truth of God's love in spite of ourselves.

With the stone rolled away came questions

From those whose world lay shattered, from those who would demand living proof, from those who were seeking a sign of promise breeding confidence, assurance and trust.

With the stone rolled away came light

To illumine the darkness of suspicion and fear, to dispel the shadows of distrust, anxiety, insecurity, to radiate with the beams of new hope and understanding the life about to be lived.

With the stone rolled away comes a future

With a truth that outshines the wisdom of ages, with a space to be filled with the company of those who through history confess Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Amen.

*Congregational Response: "Alleluia" (Taizé Community) GTG # 586

(Cantor sings first, congregation join as repeated)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of Illumination:

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture: Psalm 118:1 & 2, 14-24 pg. 565

Anthem: "Worthy Is the Lamb" from *Messiah* G. F. Handel
(Chancel Choir, Brass Quintet and Organ)

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,

And hath redeemed us to God by His blood,

To receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength,

And honor, and glory and blessing.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto Him, be unto Him

That sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Forever and ever. Amen.

Time for Young Disciples Laura Sparks

Second Scripture: John 20:1-18 pg. 114

Sermon: "If Jesus Be Not Raised" David Roquemore

*Hymn: "The Strife Is O'er" GTG #236

Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came

down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing" Stephen Walters
(Brass Quartet and Organ)

*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" GTG #606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving...

The Lord be with you! **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

(The prayer continues, ending with "...the universal church and the heavenly choir." Congregation joins in singing the Sanctus, GTG #559)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

(The prayer continues until "Great is Thy mystery of Faith." Congregation joins in singing: 'Christ Has Died; Christ Has Risen' GTG #560)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

... and the Lord's Prayer

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.

(After the Lord's Prayer, congregation join in singing 'Amen' GTG # 561)

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion: The Song of Simeon Luke 2:29-32

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace, your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Amen.

*Closing Song: “Hallelujah!” from *Messiah* G. F. Handel
(Sam Choate, Piccolo Trumpet)

All are invited to join in singing

Hallelujah! (repeated several times)

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah!

The Kingdom of this world is become

The Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ;

And He shall reign forever and ever,

King of kings, forever and ever, Hallelujah!

And Lord of lords, forever and ever, Hallelujah!

King of Kings, forever and ever, Hallelujah!

And Lord of Lords, forever and ever, Hallelujah!

King of Kings, forever and ever, Hallelujah!

And Lord of Lords, forever and ever, Hallelujah!

And He shall reign, and He shall reign forever and ever,

King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

*Benediction

Postlude: “The Strife is O’er, the Battle Won” Daniel Burton
(Brass Quartet and Organ)

*Please stand in body or spirit
Bold print words are read in unison.

Elder on Call this week is Mimi Michael.
Lay Leader this week is Gary McDougal.

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“Worthy Is the Lamb” from *Messiah*, G. F. Handel; “The Strife Is O’er”, Latin hymn trans. Francis Pott, music Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, adapt. William Henry Monk; “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”, text Thomas Ken, music Genevan Psalter; “Hallelujah!” from *Messiah*, G. F. Handel.

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Director of Music – Catherine C. Murdock

Organist/pianist – Susan A. Strickland

Brass Instrumentalists:

Sam Choate, Taylor Rhinehart – Trumpets

Tiffany Holman – Horn

Jim Stone – Trombone

Carlos Molinaro Basile – Tuba

We thank our brass quartet/quintet who are a part of our service of worship today. Trumpet players Sam Choate and Taylor Rhinehart, are members of our church. Our Horn player, Tiffany, is a graduate music student at LRU and currently the interim band instructor at H. M. Arndt Middle School. Our Trombone player, Jim, is from Granite Falls. He is a member of the Hickory Jazz Orchestra. He works at Music and Arts as a repairman of brass instruments. Our Tuba player, Carlos, is a fourth-year music student at LRU working toward a degree in Music Education. We thank all these instrumentalists for sharing their talents with us this morning for our worship service.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The Presbyterian Church (USA) collects four Special Offerings throughout the church year which allows the whole Church to join together in response to God’s grace. They represent the largest, collective way Presbyterians come together to work for a better world. The first Special Offering of the year is the One Great Hour of Sharing and will be received today. Donations may also be sent to the church office or made online at the church’s website (www.fpcnewton.org). The “OGHS” enables the church to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. The receipts from our congregation will be disbursed to several PC(USA) organizations including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self Development of People. For more information on this effort please visit specialofferings.pcusa.org.

THE MINISTERS

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Serving the Newton-Conover area since 1858

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Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m.



PASTOR

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Following Christ together in witness, love and service.