

EASTER

SUNDAY MORNING

April 1, 2018

ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD



Second
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship
and silence your mobile devices.*

Welcome to our celebration of our Lord's Resurrection! We are glad that you have joined us for worship.

Easter Sunday means everything to a follower of Jesus since the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the crowning proof of Christianity. If the resurrection did not take place, then Christianity is a false religion. The Apostle Paul said himself, "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and our faith is in vain" (I Corinthians 15:14).

However, the Good News we celebrate today and every Sunday is that Christ has been raised from the dead! After Paul lists all of the early witnesses to Christ's resurrection, he then gives us the reason for our celebration: "For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:21-22).

Friends, as those made alive in Christ, let us worship Him together — the One who swallowed up death and rose in victory!

THE JOYFUL PRAISE OF A RISEN SAVIOR

BRASS AND ORGAN PRELUDE: "All Hail the Power" arr. Tim Zimmerman
Steve Hancock, director

THE EASTER GREETING Joshua D. Yates

Let us call upon the Lord

Who is worthy to be praised.

The Lord lives and blessed be our Rock,

and exalted be the God of our Salvation,

For Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

♠PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 277 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" . . . EASTER HYMN

♠INVOCATION (*please lift hands*). David A. Bowen

♠LITANY OF PRAISE T. Barton Kimbro

based on Matthew 28:6; John 1:5; I Peter 2:10; Ephesians 2:14

This is the good news — the grave is empty; Christ is risen.

Hallelujah!

This is the good news — the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

Hallelujah!

This is the good news — once we were no people; now we are God's people.

Hallelujah!

This is the good news — Christ is our peace,
the indestructible peace, who has made us one in himself.

Hallelujah!

♠DOXOLOGY. LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

THE DIVINE PARDON OF A RISEN SAVIOR

♣AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 45. Joshua L. Preston

How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

**First, by His resurrection He has overcome death,
so that He could make us share in the righteousness
which He had obtained for us by His death.
Second, by His power we too are raised up to a new life.
Third, Christ's resurrection is to us a sure pledge
of our glorious resurrection.**

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION. D. Todd Erickson

**Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
You shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We forget Your love, wander from Your ways,
waste Your gifts, overlook our neighbors,
and are deaf to the cries of the oppressed.
When the risks of discipleship are high,
we are nowhere to be found.
Father, have mercy on us.
Purge us from selfishness, pride, and the fear of man.
Help us to trust Your power
to transform us and make us new
so that we may know the joy of abundant life
given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. Romans 4:25

*He was delivered over to death for our sins
and was raised to life for our justification.*

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD Michael G. Stokke

OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

"The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns" arr. John Ferguson

The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heav'n affords belongs to Him by right;
The King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav'n's eternal light.

The joy of all above, of all below, to whom He manifests His love.
The cross with all its shame is giv'n;
Their name an everlasting name; their joy the joy of heav'n.

They suffer with their Lord below; they reign with Him above;
Their profit and their joy, their joy to know the myst'ry of His love.

**Congregation joins:
The cross He bore is life and health, though shame and death to him,
His people's hope, His people's wealth their everlasting theme.**

The Chancel Choir · Christy Young, director

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING L. Brett Wynne

♣GREETINGS Dan G. Burns

THE WORD OF OUR RISEN SAVIOR

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:00, 9:30) Gerry A. Peak

✠PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Timothy L. Russell

**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.**

✠HYMN OF PREPARATION: No. 44 "How Great Thou Art" O STORE GUD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 8:26-40
(page 917 in the pew Bible)

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;

**The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen.** (Isaiah 40:6b, 8)

SERMON *Source of True Joy* George W. Robertson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✠HYMN OF THE CROSS: "In Christ Alone" Keith Getty, Stuart Townend



1. In Christ a - lone, my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help - less
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, light of the world by dark - ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in



song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the
Babe; this gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the
slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the
me; from life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com -



fier - cest drought and storm; what heights of love, what depths of
ones He came to save; 'til on that cross, as Je - sus
grave He rose a - gain; and as He stands in vic - to -
mands my des - ti - ny; no pow'r of hell, no scheme of



peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease; my Com - fort -
died, the wrath of God was sat - is - fied, for ev - 'ry
ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am
man can ev - er pluck me from His hand; 'til He re -



er, my All in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I stand.
His and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

✠BENEDICTION (*please lift hands*)

✠BENEDICTION RESPONSE: "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah* G. F. Handel

Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world is become
The kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ;
And He shall reign for ever and ever.

King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah!

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Toccatà" from *Symphony No. 5* C. M. Widor

Samuel Metzger, organist

✠Indicates congregation standing

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Today, the paraments have been changed from the red of Holy Week to the white of Eastertide. On the pulpit fall is embroidered a Latin cross in gold thread. Upon the cross bloom three white lilies with green leaves, signifying both purity and the Trinity. The Bible markers bear the Greek letters Chi and Rho, the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. The Easter banner is also white and features the same gold cross with lilies; it bears the words "Alleluia" and "Christ is risen." The procession is led by the processional cross. The custom of processional crosses can be traced back to the sixth century A.D. and reminds us of the sacrifice of our Savior, His redeeming love, and the promise of salvation. This cross bears at its junction the letters IHS, the first letters in the Greek name for Jesus.

Source of True Joy | George Robertson

April 1, 2018

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- I. Clearly (Acts 8:26-31)
 - A. Preached

 - B. Personal

 - C. Proactive

 - II. Repeatedly (Acts 8:32-35)
 - A. From Beginning to End

 - B. In Isaiah

 - C. For You

 - III. Visibly (Acts 8:36-40)
 - A. Immediate Confirmation

 - B. Qualitative Confirmation