



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 12, 2020

EASTER SUNDAY



PRELUDE/MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION

"My Lord, What a Morning"

Cheryl Mayhew, organist

Roger C. Wilson

GREETING

Pastor Eric Gale

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Lay Leader: Mark Boxberger

L: How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

P: We are called to be Easter people!

L: Darkness cannot claim us!

P: Fear cannot bind us!

L: Christ is risen!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*

Christ the Lord is ris'n today. Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high. Alleluia! Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King. Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia! Dying once, He all doth save. Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? 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!

Soar we now where Christ has led. Alleluia! Foll'wing our exalted Head. Alleluia! Made like Him, like Him we rise. Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We serve a risen Savior yet live as if in chains. Forgive us, Lord that we are so hesitant to live the resurrection life. Forgive us that we fail to show through word and action the truth that you loved us into your kingdom through the glorious mystery of the Cross. Forgive us that there is still fear in our lives that prevents us from achieving our full potential. Draw us close. Open our eyes to the glory of the risen Christ, our hearts to the wonder of the Cross and our hands to the service of your kingdom where you have placed us, that your name might be glorified through our lives. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: *"Faith was reckoned as righteousness...to us who believe in the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death because of our sins and was raised for the sake of our righteousness."* (Romans 4:20-25) Hear and believe these words about God's amazing grace, grace experienced through Jesus' sacrificial love, as forgiveness of sins.

All: Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Hallelujah, Amen"

Chancel Choir

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

Trish Moore

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION *"O How He Loves You and Me"*

"O how He loves you and me, O how He loves you and me He gave His life, what more could He give?"

O how He loves you, O how He loves me, O how He loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for sinners to show What He did there brought hope from despair

O how He loves you, O how He loves me, O how He loves you and me."

MESSAGE

"Believing Without Understanding"

Pastor Eric Gale

"... blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29

CLOSING HYMN *"He Lives"*

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today; I know that He is living, whatever men may say. I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of Cheer, And just the time I need Him, he's always near.

[CHORUS]: He Lives, He Lives! Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see His loving care; and tho-my heart grows weary, I never will despair. I know that He is leading thro' all the stormy blast; The day of His appearing will come at last. [CHORUS]

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing; Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King! The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find, None other is so loving, so good and kind. [CHORUS]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Day of Joy"

Franklin Ritter

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Roger Paulson, friend of the Gale Family, had a brain tumor removed this past Friday.

Medical Professionals, who are exposing themselves to take care of those in need.

Those who are feeling isolated, due to Social Distancing restrictions.

SCRIPTURE

John 20

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

How many parts of our lives do we not fully understand, yet believe and trust? Can we believe in the resurrection, yet not fully understand? Can we follow Jesus, yet not fully understand his ways?

I. O _____ Mary Magdalene

II. I _____ Peter

III. D _____ Thomas