



"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

Living Waters Contemplative Life Center | Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless
Tippecanoe just.good.food Garden | Food Justice Site PCUSA
Arts and Science Literacy Camps for Children

Welcome To Worship

April 17, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday



Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.

TODAY'S WORSHIP
Easter Sunday

Preparing to Worship...



“The Light Shines in the Darkness”

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- ✧ **Prelude: Zo Trembley**
- ✧ **Welcome and community news**
- ✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

***Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!***  
***Surely God is in this place,***  
***Holy Ground!***

✧ **A Poem to Center Ourselves in this Moment-**  
“Mysteries, Yes” by Mary Oliver

*Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous  
to be understood.*

*How grass can be nourishing in the  
mouths of the lambs.*

*How rivers and stones are forever  
in allegiance with gravity*

*while we ourselves dream of rising.*

*How two hands touch and the bonds will  
never be broken.*

*How people come, from delight or the  
scars of damage,*

*to the comfort of a poem.*

*Let me keep my distance, always, from those  
who think they have the answers.*

*Let me keep company always with those who say*

*“Look!” and laugh in astonishment,  
and bow their heads.*

✧ **Opening Hymn: “Now the Green Blade Rises” #247**

✧ **Becoming Present to God and Each Other...Our Check-in:**

How Are You as You Arrive...how is it with your spirit?

~**The Joy of Passing the Peace**



✧ **And the Children Will Lead the Way: Kids' Time**



✧ **Gathering as God's People on Easter Sunday**



✧ **Gathering Hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" #245**

### ✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

**All: He is risen, death turns to resurrection, despair turns to hope.**

**Around the world wherever our neighbors are on their journey, we are there.**

**We extend our hands to communities torn apart by violence.**

**To our neighbors forced from their homes, we proclaim the message of hope.**

**We believe in the joyful glorious world that Jesus' resurrection brings.**

**We will walk together until we arrive.**

**Easter has come and so it begins, God.**

**We who have home ask that you send your Spirit into our locked places, into our hidden rooms.**

**Into the corners where fear and betrayal, where self-doubt and doubt in you keep us cowering.**

**Send your Spirit there for it begins there.**

**Call us down into the world you love and put us to work.**

**Call us down into the streets you walk and align our footsteps to yours.**

**Call us down into the places where you are needed and make us your body.**

**Standing and walking in solidarity with our sisters and brothers.**

**Easter has come and so it begins, God.**

**It begins, again and again and again. Amen.**

### ✧Sharing our Innermost Lives with God

Holy One, we witness the empty tomb and realize that this emptiness is not *nothing* – it is *everything* - an invitation to come out of the darkness and join together in the light of Your love! You offer us an opening, a spaciousness, that leads us toward the possibility of transformation, renewal, resurrection. May our fears and doubts dissolve as we root into your restorative love.



I invite us now into a few minutes of quiet. Our gathered community enables us to become even more aware of the Divine presence. Enter the sacred awareness of God's accompaniment as you seek understanding and connection.



### ✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

Holy Spirit, may we hear your precious word for us today. May we grow in wisdom, strength, and love as we open our ears, our minds, and our hearts to the transformative message you have in store for each of us. Amen.

### ✧ **Bible Wisdom Teaching**

John 20:1-18

### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

Do I hold on to the life I have known, or can I embrace the invitation to new life? What might new life look like? Where and to what am I being called? How open am I to being led by the Spirit in my daily life?

One: May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.

All: **Thanks be to our God.**

✧ Message *“Easter: The Light Shines in the Darkness”*

Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ Hymn: *“In the Darkness of the Morning”* #229

✧ Sharing Our Wisdom

✧ Affirming Our Faith with Intention...Our Prayer

**All: In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one Triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth praying, “Come, Lord Jesus?”**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.**

✧ A Moment of Quiet for Everyone



## ✧Community Prayers and the Pastoral Prayer

In the joy and hope of this Easter morning,  
we sing Alleluia with the fullness of hearts.  
Christ is Risen!  
Love is stronger than Death!  
Alleluia!

In the joy and hope of this Easter morning,  
in the midst of our singing and shouting,  
we know there are those who are bewildered and sad.  
We pray for those that have no hope,  
for those who suffer from depression, loneliness, and fear.

We pray for those places and peoples in our world  
where death and domination rule,  
where imperial powers ignore the poor,  
where war never ends,  
where children are hungry,  
where parents grieve because they cannot provide,  
where accidents happen and death abounds senselessly.  
We pray for those held hostage  
to addiction and chronic illness that debilitates.

In the joy and hope of this Easter morning,  
we realize the depth and breadth of what it means  
to be your Easter people.  
For we are the ones who are called  
to go into the places in our lives and world  
to work for justice and life for all in your Creation.  
It is up to us to bear witness to the promise of resurrection,  
to hold those in despair,  
and believe for them,  
that Love is stronger than death.

In the joy and hope of this Easter morning, O God,  
give us the courage to bear your living Love  
in every corner of our lives,  
so that your peaceable realm will be so,  
here on earth, as it is in heaven.

In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray,  
Alleluia! Amen.



## ✧Preparation of the Table



### Welcome

This Easter morning, we are powerfully reminded that death does not have the last word! We awaken to resurrection and the promise of renewal. On this blessed Sunday we rejoice in the risen power of love, hope, and new life.

Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**  
Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**  
Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**  
**Hallelujah!**

In the Gospel of John, through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus shows the power of eternal life triumphing over death. Jesus calls each of us into new life.

Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha, and they were among Jesus' closest friends. Lazarus' name in Hebrew means "*God has helped.*"

Lazarus came down with an unnamed, serious illness, and when his sisters Mary and Martha realized his condition was worsening, sent word to Jesus for help.

Jesus was preaching out of town, and when he got word of Lazarus's illness replied, "*This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.*" (V4) Then he stayed where he was for two more days.

We might expect (as Lazarus' family did), that He would come running to help. But God's timing is not our timing. His delay in coming to Lazarus is a great example.

*(John 11: 17-27) When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."*

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

They will come from east and west  
and from north and south,  
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

The risen Lord invites all to participate in the new life he brings by sharing the feast which he has prepared.

Let us celebrate what God has done, is doing, and will do.

### **Great 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.**



Eternal Giver of life and light,  
this holy morning shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given to us in Baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

With thankful hearts we lift our voices:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Nourished at this table, O God,  
may we know Christ's redemptive love  
and live a new life in him.  
Help us recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread  
to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken.  
Give us grace to share our bread with the hungry and the hungry of heart.

Jesus, through word and deed, your love continues to guide us. We embrace your transformative invitation to love one another as you love us.

Spirit, in whom Jesus abides, your abiding love is woven within us and surrounds us always. Gift us with your presence, blessing the bread and juice we are about to receive and through which we will be nourished and united. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

As renewed people, let us join our voices together in The Lord's Prayer:

**Lord's Prayer  
Indwelling God,  
infused throughout all existence,  
we honor you with many names.**

**Your realm is within the human heart.  
We accept life for all that it can be,  
on earth as throughout all creation.**

**May we continue to draw sustenance from this earth,  
and may we receive forgiveness equal to our own.**

**May we ever move from separation toward union,  
to live in grace, with love in our hearts,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### ✧ **Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread**

Just as we are gathered around this table, Jesus and his beloved companions sat at table together to share a meal.

Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples, promising that as they ate, they would share in his life and death and resurrection.

As we share it now, we join in the feast of all creation, now and always.

He then took up the cup and blessed it, and shared the cup of wine, offering them a taste of the new covenant of life sealed in his life.

As we share it, we join in the feast of all creation, now and always.

### **Communion of the People**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Thank you, Holy One, for this feast of life.

We are fed by your love,

we are strengthened by your life.

We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy.

We are now called to:

    feed as we have been fed,

    forgive as we have been forgiven,

    love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

#### ✧ **Benediction**

Source of life, love and hope,  
you liberate us from that death  
and breathe new life into us...

Through our fear, our doubt, our confusion  
may we continue to journey in the way of Jesus,  
liberated, challenged and nurtured  
by your Spirit of mystery and grace. **Amen.**

*Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.*

✧ **Our Response...Holy One, now we your servants go in peace. Your word lives on in us.**

Postlude: Zo Trembley



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