



Memorial Presbyterian Church

Easter Day

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 31, 2024

Wandering Heart: And I hope

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Easter Morning

I cannot stay away on Easter Morning.

Like Peter,

I would run if I could.

Stop the car,

pump my arms,

take the church steps two at a time,

all to know—

Did it happen?

Did it really happen?

Is evil no match for love?

I'd slide down the center aisle.

I'd grab the mic to ask

the angels,

the heavens,

the children,

Were the stories true?

And in response, the choir would sing, "Alleluia."

The children would flower the cross.

The preacher would tell me the stone was rolled away.

The people would pass the peace,

and welcome strangers,

and make room in the pews.

And with faith over doubt,

I would hope.

For I imagine that all of that ordinary holiness

would be enough for Peter,

and it would be enough for me.

By Rev. Sarah Speed

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Thine Is the Glory

arr. by Karl Osterland

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Leseney

Yesterday we thought death had won.

Yesterday we thought all was lost.

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen today.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Hymnal, No. 232

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

The stone is rolled away!

We assume it is a mistake.

The angels say, "He is not here!"

We assume their news is fake.

The women tell the story,

but we do not want to hear it.

Peter runs to the tomb,

but we do not understand.

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb
is nothing more than a prank.

**Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths
and still holding tight to death.**

Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope
when you are alive and well in the world.

Teach us to see what you see.

Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

Amen.

(Time of silent reflection)

*THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE O Sons and Daughters, Let us Sing Hymnal, No. 255, v. 1

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sons and daughters, let us sing

With heavenly hosts to Christ our King;

Today the grave has lost its sting!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Samuel McCann

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Page No. 492

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

See What a Morning

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:1-12

Page No. 860

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

And I Hope

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

Hymnal, No. 435

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We may weep through the longest nights.
We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.
We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.
But today, we are a people of hope.**

**We believe in new beginnings.
We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.
We believe that Jesus abides among us,
healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.
We believe that a tomb could not hold him.
We believe that the sun does rise.
We believe that Peter was there
with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.**

**We believe that the story is not over yet,
for God is among us.
Today we are a people of hope.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

O Sons and Daughters, Let us Sing

Hymnal, No. 255, v. 6

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
How blest are they who have not seen,
and yet whose faith has constant been,
for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

Hymnal, No. 239

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Toccata on All Creatures of Our God and King

Diane Bish

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for April 7: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

The Food & Shelter items of the month for March are travel-sized toothpaste and bar soap. **Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host,

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures
of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal
which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more
sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -
where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
fect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of vocal parts (Soprano and Bass) with piano accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in two columns, with the first column corresponding to the first vocal part and the second column to the second vocal part. The piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! 239

1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Death's might - y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way. Let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!