

# Worship in the time of COVID-19

## An order of worship for April 12, 2020

### Easter Sunday

**Welcome by Pastor Kristen**

**Easter Gospel: John 20:1-18**

*Image: darkness*

1Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

*Image: "The Women Approach the Empty Tomb," painting by Paul Oman*

5He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10Then the disciples returned to their homes.

*Image: "The Risen Jesus Meets Mary at the Empty Tomb," painting by Paul Oman*

11But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 12and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 17Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.**

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Sermon**

## **Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today**

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**
  
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**
  
- 3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**
  
- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

**1 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.**

**2 Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

**14 The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.**

**15 Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"**

16The right hand of the Lord is exalted!  
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”

17I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the Lord.

18The Lord indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

19Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

20“This is the gate of the Lord;  
here the righteous may enter.”

21I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.

22The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

23By the Lord has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

24This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## **Psalm Song: God’s Love Endures Forever (Psalm 118)**

Chorus: O give thanks, O give thanks, God’s love endures forever (x2)  
La la la la la

1. With our dreams and our fears,  
With our joys and our pain,  
We come, we come

Chorus

2. With our strength and our weakness,  
With our gifts and our needs,  
We come, we come

Chorus (x2)

## **Children’s sermon**

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image

and planted us in a well-watered garden.  
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.  
When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.  
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.  
We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this bowl,  
and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Song: Dance**

1. Now let us dance for the victory is won, now let us sing for the song has begun  
Now let us live in the light of the Son, gathered and called and united as one.

Chorus: When we see the grave, stone is rolled away, hear the angels say, "He is risen!"  
When we rise from death, filled with God's own breath, dead in sin, and yet, we're forgiven.

2. At dawn as they walk sadly hanging their head, they fell in reverence when angels said,  
"Why do you look for the living with the dead?" Their mourning walk turned to dancing instead.

Chorus

3. This same good news we believers proclaim, when we with water baptize in his name  
Their message then, and ours now the same, Jesus has the victory and Satan has no claim!

Chorus

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders. Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Lord, in your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

All your creation praises you—the earth hums, the seas pulse, the stars shine, and the galaxies whirl in glorious harmonies to honor you. Let us hear and blend our voices in the song. Lord, in your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

The countries of the world experience disunity and conflict; we set our minds on fear and greed rather than on your rule of justice and steadfast love. Build up all countries on your cornerstone of peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

Most merciful God, we come to you in this time of anxiety and uncertainty surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19. As the sorrows of our heart and mind increase, we beseech you to save us from all trouble and fear. Cast away all works of darkness. Be our rock, a castle to keep us safe. For the Lord is our stronghold and sure defense, and he will be our Savior. Lord, in your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

We still weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence. We pray especially this day for all those affected of and fearful about COVID-19-- medical professionals, those who work essential jobs, those who have lost their jobs, those who are sick, those who have died, those who are lonely or overwhelmed in quarantine, those who are filled with grief and anxiety. Lord, in your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

Bless the creative and helpful service of all who work to bring hope in the midst of this pandemic-- worship leaders, teachers, artists, musicians, and encouragers of every kind. Inspire the work of research scientists and public health workers as they seek treatments and vaccines for COVID-19. Give wisdom and guidance to all government workers and community leaders, that they might make wise decisions that help all people. Lord, in your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. As we remember those who have died, help us to trust in your promise of resurrection. Inspire us to live our lives in this resurrection hope and draw us to you in our final days. Lord, in your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Hymn: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

**1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
in praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"**

**Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**2 Eternal is the gift he brings,  
therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still he comes to give us life  
and by his presence stills all strife.  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
set heart and will on things above  
that we conquer through your triumph;  
grant grace sufficient for life's day  
that by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**4 Adoring praises now we bring  
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father, and our Lord,  
to Spirit blest, most holy God,  
all the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### **Blessing**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead  
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,  
and turn your mourning into dancing.  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Go in peace and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!  
And have fun doing it! We will! Amen!

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Dance

Words and music by Lost & Found

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**God's Love Endures Forever**

**Words and music by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan**

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