



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship

Resurrection Sunday, April 4, 2021

Pastor: Bruce Farrell

Ministers: All the Faithful Members

PRELUDE

Tara Zimmerman

WELCOME and Ringing of the Bell

*CALL TO WORSHIP

[from Mark 16; Psalm 98:1; Revelation 1:4-5, 8]

Pastor: When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome ... entered the tomb [and] saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. Christ the Lord is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Sing to the Lord Who has done excellent things.

People: Alleluia! Praise the lord! Now we cry to our King Immortal, Who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal. "Alleluia!" with the Son, God the Father praising. "Alleluia!" yet again to the Spirit raising.

Pastor: Grace be to you and peace, from the One Who is and Who was and Who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of kings on earth.

All: Alleluia, amen!

*HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

**¹ Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All creation join to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heaven, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**² 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!**

**³ Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**⁴ Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!**

PASTORAL OPENING PRAYER

When everything was dark and it seemed the sun would never shine again, Your love broke through. It was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. The sparks cast by Your love burst forth and spread and danced with resurrection light. Gracious God, we praise You for the light of new life made possible through Jesus. We praise You for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of the resurrection. We praise You for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today. We pray that the Resurrection light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.

PRAYERS for the People and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your Name.

Your kingdom come; Your 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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Alleluia
Roberto Marti

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: What the Angel Said

THE SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:1-8

HYMN

Lift High the Cross

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim 'til all the world adore His sacred name.

¹ Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod; our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]

² Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of Him Who died. [Refrain]

³ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, Your death has bought us life eternally. [Refrain]

⁴ So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory!

Last Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim 'til all the world adore Your sacred name.

SERMON: Words of Faith, Hope and Love

ANTHEM

The Holy City

Roberto Marti

COMMUNION

Invitation

Celebrating Our New Life in Christ: Call to Confession and Preparation

[Romans 6:3-4]

Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we, too, may live a new life. Come in the assurance of this promise to confess your sins before our loving God.

Confession

When our faith stands at the grave, grieving for a stone that's rolled away: **forgive us.**

When our faith is short of understanding, though the truth is there to see: **forgive us.**

When our faith, beset by doubt, sees no further than an empty tomb: **forgive us.**

Bring to mind the cry of Mary, "I have seen the Lord!" and grant us faith to believe and to love You!

Assurance of Pardon

[Romans 6:10-11, 14]

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified. And it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame." How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of Whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Declaration of Faith

[from Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 45]

Pastor: How does Jesus Christ's resurrection benefit us?

People: First, by His resurrection He has overcome death, so that He might make us share in the righteousness He won for us by His death.

Pastor: Second, by His power we, too, are already now resurrected to a new life.

People: Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.

All: This our faith and hope. Alleluia, amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread

He is Lord

**He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

Sharing of the Wine

Alleluia

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia! You are worthy. Alleluia! You are worthy. Alleluia!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jesus is the true Passover Lamb Who has taken away the sin of the world and destroyed death. On the day You gloriously raised Your Son from the dead, Jesus was recognized by His disciples when He broke bread with them. In the power of Your Holy Spirit, Your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. So, in remembrance of these, Your mighty acts in Jesus, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with His offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

By Your Spirit, may we be for the world the Body of Christ, redeemed by His blood until You come in final victory and we feast at Your heavenly banquet.

HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

¹ **The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; The passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free, our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.**

² **Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright the Christ Who reigns eternal in resurrection light.
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain, His own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

³ **Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth the song begin! The world resound in triumph and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend, for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.**

⁴ **Then praise we God the Father, and praise we Christ the Son, with them the Holy Spirit, Eternal Three-in-One,
Till all the ransomed number fall down before Your throne, and honor, pow'r, and glory ascribe to You alone.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go into the world to sing new songs of joy.

People: With thankful hearts, we leave.

Pastor: Go into the world to work.

People: With serving hearts full of Your love, we leave.

Pastor: Go into the world to tell of God's majestic deeds.

People: With the message of Jesus' death and resurrection and the promise of His coming again, we leave.

Pastor: The grace of God, the peace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit go before us.

All: Thanks be to You, God, now and forevermore. Amen!

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

POSTLUDE

... The apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead...

"It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.

Acts 4: 2, 10-12, 32-34



1588 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon, PA 17046

717-865-3286

www.ziongosherts.org

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He is Lord. Anonymous.

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Benediction adapted from; <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/christ-has-died-christ-has-risen-christ-will-come-again>

Opening Pastoral Prayer adapted from XXX © The Rev'd Michaela Youngson, Chair of the London District of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

Confession adapted from: John Birch posted on Faith and Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/03/easter-confession-faith-to-believe.html>