

April 5, 2026 + 10:30 A.M.
RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

We Join in Worship

Liturgist: Vimary Couvertier Cruz

If you need extra space for a wheelchair or walker, or if you have young children with you, please feel free to make use of our Prayground, the extra space across the aisle from the sound booth.

PRELUDE His Matchless Worth

L. Mason

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from *Psalm 118*)

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good!

ALL: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: Let Jacob say,

ALL: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: Let the house of Aaron say,

ALL: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: Let those who fear the LORD say,

ALL: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed!

Leader: Hallelujah!

ALL: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (464)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Leader: The author of *Colossians* writes, "If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Together let us confess the ways that we have sought the things that are below rather than the things that are above.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of grace and mercy, we come before you to confess with the assurance that Jesus Christ is risen indeed. We confess that we fail to fully live into the joy of the Resurrection because we are fixated on death in the world today. Our grief is important, but we often get stuck in the sadness and suffering of Good Friday and its reflections in today's systems of hatred and violence. We stay in despair instead of embracing hope. And yet, we are the people of the Resurrection! The world is in desperate need of the hope of transformation and new life. Forgive us for ignoring our distinctive call. Remind us of our identity as the bearers of the hope of the Resurrection. Help us to do better. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, we pray. Amen.

KYRIE: No. 572 (unison)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then we also will be revealed with him in glory.

ALL: Jesus Christ is risen! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI: No. 579 (unison)

**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. Amen.**

STATEMENT OF FAITH (*The Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

EMBODIED WORD FOR DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of new life in our reading of the scriptures. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, we pray. Amen.

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON: *Jeremiah 31:1-6*

EPISTLE LESSON: *Colossians 3:1-4*

GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 28:1-10*

SERMON: Do Not Be Afraid

CHORAL ANTHEM: *We Welcome Glad Easter* arr. John Rasley

We Respond in Faith

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Leader: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
ALL: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn: **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.**

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

Leader: The bread of heaven. The cup of the new covenant. The gifts of God for the people of God.
ALL: Let us keep the feast!

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

OFFERING INVITATION

Leader: With the resurrection, Christ overcame death. Let us give our tithes and offerings for the purposes of struggling against systems of death and building the kingdom of new life. Please place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you are worshiping from home, please mail in your checks or use our online giving option on the website. Now let us practice stewardship as we listen to today's offertory.

OFFERTORY Christ the Lord is Risen Again

Lieder/Lester

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)

God, we dedicate these gifts to you and your kingdom. We do so as the resurrection people with hope to give to the world. Guide us as we use these gifts to serve your people. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, we pray. Amen.

We Go Into the World

* **CLOSING HYMN:** “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (123)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE He Lives!

A. Ackley

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* So that we can properly greet people who come to the building during Sunday morning worship, Door A will be the only unlocked external door during the worship service.

TODAY'S FLOWERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN FOR THE GLORY OF GOD BY THE FOLLOWING:

Bob & Charlotte Abernethy, in memory of Martin Kessler & Nity Abernethy

Jean Allmond, in honor of James, Fawn, Michelle and her mom's Birthday

Hunter Balczo

Fred & Carol Callaway, in memory of loved ones

Peter & Gale Churitch, in honor of family

Clara Coapstick, in memory of her mom, dad and Allen

Lois Fozkos, in memory of loved ones

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, in memory of loved ones

Karen & Doran Lounsbury, in Memory of missed family and friends

Shirley McKnight, in Memory of her husband, Barry

Barb Morton, in honor of Chester & Lillie Belle Morton; in memory of Morton, McDonald,
and Bannon Family

Tyler Orem and Vimary Couvertier Cruz, in memory of Grandma, Aunt Teresa, Pappy, and Titi Isabel

Marjean Reed, in memory of Dr. Ronald R. Reed; Reed & Maxwell Families

Jean Smith, in memory of Jay Smith and Bob & Arlene Diekman

Cheryl Steen, in memory of Dr. Lowell H. Steen & Laura Steen Wisner

Yvonne Suroviak, in memory of her children: Carol A. Smith, Terri M. Nern, and
Darren Suroviak

In Lieu of Flowers:

Hunter Balczo

Yvonne Suroviak, in memory of her children: Carol A. Smith, Terri M. Nern, and
Darren Suroviak

PEEK AT THE WEEK:

- SUNDAY 4/5: EASTER
Worship in Person & Online – 10:30 AM
Communion
- MONDAY 4/6: GA – 6:30 PM
Al-Anon – 7:00 PM
- TUESDAY 4/7: Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH)
Deacons – 6:30 PM
AA – 7:30 PM
- WEDNESDAY 4/8: Trustees – 10:00 AM
Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH)
GA – 7:00 PM
- THURSDAY 4/9: Choir – 7:00 PM
- SATURDAY 4/11: Cook for Shelter – 1:00 PM
AA – 6:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WATCH THE GAP! All aboard!** The session of the First Presbyterian Church of Highland is excited to announce an opportunity for the church to address our deficit budget! The train is in the station (well, the narthex), and ready for some generous passengers to hop on! Be sure to have your fares ready! Oh, and **watch the gap** as you step on! We have taken a look at our projected income (including allowable income from the Endowment Fund) and estimated that the **gap** between our income and projected expenses is approximately **\$5,000**. We think we can raise this amount in a month! Are you on board?
- **MINISTRY OF MISSION'S 2026 FLOWER VOUCHER SALE** The Ministry of Mission's Annual Zandstra Flower Voucher Fundraiser begins on Sunday, April 12, 2026. The vouchers are \$17.00 each, and as you know they are worth \$17.00 at Zandstra's Greenhouse. Vouchers will be available to purchase in Fellowship Hall each Sunday after church, and you can also reach out to Tracy Oprea @ (219) 616-7181 to purchase the same. Tracy will deliver them to you at no extra charge. Mission greatly appreciates your support. Spring Blessings to All.
- **DOING SPRING CLEANING?** As you do your spring cleaning, set aside items that might be donated to the rummage sale. The rummage sale will be May 1 and 2. You can bring items to Door B at the church beginning April 14 -April 25 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. More information is coming soon.
- **CALLING ALL GRADUATES!** The 2025-2026 school year is almost over! We would like to recognize all the graduates in our church community. If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school or any higher education this year as part of the Class of 2026, we'd like to celebrate you! Please email Heather Casiano, hcasiano@fpchighland.org, or call the church office, with the graduate's name and a brief bio. Please include things like the name of the school they are graduating from, future plans (college, career, military, etc.), any special awards or recognitions, sports, community organizations or other activities they are involved with, and any other details that would help us celebrate the graduate. If you have a recent picture of the graduate that we can publish, please submit that as well. Graduate information should be submitted no later than April 20.
- **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING PC(USA) SPECIAL OFFERING** If you still have fish banks or envelopes to bring in, please do so in the coming weeks!
- **"THE BIBLE IN TODAY'S WORLD"** Bible study group meets on Sunday mornings in the middle classroom (across from Pastor Tyler's office), from 9-10 am. There will be NO class on April 5. The class is beginning a new study on April 12 – watch the weekly bulletins for the title and description. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- **"BYOB"** (Bring Your Own Bible) will resume weekly Scripture discussions on Wednesday, April 22, from 7-8 pm on Zoom. The Zoom link is emailed out weekly on Wednesday mornings. If you are not receiving this email and would like to, contact Heather Casiano, or Kristen in the church office.
- **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** If you don't already follow us on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so @firstpchighland on both Facebook and Instagram.

- **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF FPCH?** You are always welcome here, whether a member or not! If you are interested in joining as a member, though, we would love to have you! Please talk to Pastor Tyler if you would like to learn more.

Opportunities to serve as the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ:

- **BLESSING BOX** Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: Canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers. Please check expiration dates!
- **HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!** Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex and fill it to help the church's food pantry.

Prayer List

Anthony	Charlie
Brady Vanes	Jerry & Rena Martinez
George Griner	Nicole
Guy Hendricks	Greg
Bill and Anettia Holmes	Mary Ellen Edeus
David Markley	Jane and David
David Kingen	Flora R.
Diana and Ray Mendoza	Tyler Gall
Janet Orem	Phil
Cindy Waltz and Sister	Luana Sulkowski
Yvonne Suroviak	Sonny Buono
Georgette Sknerski	Shannon Sutton
Jakob Holden	Robin
Denise Matthys	Eunice
Jan Oprea	Betsy
Florance Cody	David
Kathy & Chuck Pumnea	Trina & Scott
Laura Buono Domsic	Joe & Kathy
The Windstrups	Breanne Polan
Rick Parker	Tammy
Gary Everhart	Alex
Darlene O'Brien	Ben
Doug & Sue Matthews	Mike Kelly
Janet Terpstra	Sue Heth
Glen Nahler	Ron Toren
Tom	Tony
David Hamblin	Mildred
Jana Tolley	Neal
Larry & Bonnie Perryman	Rita
Delta Rose	Carolyn
Winnie Owen	Oscar Ochoa
Breeanne	Loved ones of Nancy Engle
Mom Bechtler	Loved ones of Ray Mendoza
Victor	Loved ones of Pastor Jane
Marian Clayton	Tony and Sharon Nevers
Ella P	Caroline
Melissa J.	Jean and Clara
Rita Stroncsek	Suzanne
Keren, Zuriel, and Gedeon	Dave Shelborne
Edna Cruz	Kali Rosalia

Jeremiah 31:1-6

31 At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

² Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

³ the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be built,
O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines
and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.

⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards
on the mountains of Samaria;
the planters shall plant
and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶ For there shall be a day when sentinels will call
in the hill country of Ephraim:

“Come, let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God.”

Colossians 3:1-4

3 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Matthew 28:1-10

28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Do Not Be Afraid

Jeremiah 31:1-6; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

Jesus Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Jesus Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Hallelujah! **Hallelujah!**

Hallelujah! **Hallelujah!**

Hallelujah! It feels so good to say it, to sing it, to shout it! *Halle*, meaning, “Praise!” and *jah*, meaning, “Jah, Yah, YHWH!” Praise Jah! Praise YHWH! Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! Yes, let us praise the Lord indeed, for Jesus Christ is risen! Let us shout it from the mountaintops to which we have been lifting our eyes for help in our season of repentance, in our season of mourning, in our season of preparation. After being betrayed, after being abandoned, after being denied by his beloved best friends, after being arrested, after being shunned, after being accused by his very own people, after being beaten, after being ridiculed, after being crucified, after being executed by an empire, Jesus Christ is risen! Jesus of Nazareth is alive! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

With the Resurrection comes the most powerful truth in the universes—we need not fear death! And if we need not fear death, then we need not fear anything. We often say that Jesus’ death on the cross was the greatest act of love there ever was, for as he said, “There is no greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” And Jesus did so for all humanity for all time! No greater love indeed! But that greatest act of love was not complete with the sacrifice and death. It came to fullness and thus wholeness with the Resurrection. When Jesus spoke of laying down one’s life, he knew that it was not a permanent state. He knew that his dying would be followed by rising, and in that rising was perfect love—whole and holy. For, perfect love casts out all fear, and the Resurrection casts out the greatest fear of all. Hallelujah!

We often wonder how God could have allowed something so horrible as the crucifixion of Jesus, claimed as God’s beloved son in the River Jordan and upon the Mount of Transfiguration. Here’s the thing, though. That act of horrific violence was not an act of God. We humans have the freedom to do whatever it is that we are capable of, and all too often we choose to do the most horrible of things, to commit the most horrible acts of violence, to cause the most horrible harm—with our wars, with our weapons, with our walls, with our words. God does not control us. It was humans just like us who did that to Jesus. Oh, but God! God did the next part! God gave Jesus life again! And so, God took away the power of death. O death, where is your sting?! O grave, where is your victory! Perhaps we should spend less time blaming God for what we humans do and more time praising God for what God does! For, God gives life and life again! And God gives love and love again! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

We humans, of course, are not always good at seeing it, at understanding it, at believing it. I mean, look at all the disciples who fled! Look at Judas who betrayed! Look at Simon Peter who denied! Even with the living, breathing embodiment of Love showing them and telling them and teaching them, they did not get it. They let fear rule their hearts. O, but the women! They did not betray, abandon, or deny. They stuck it out. They stuck around. They witnessed Jesus’ death and ensured that Jesus would not die alone. And then they carried on with the burial arrangements, surely overwhelmed by grief. Surely scared beyond belief. The fear was there, but they did not let that fear rule their hearts. They let love in. They let love win.

The body of Jesus was put into a tomb of the earth, a cave for a grave. But in truth that tomb was a womb, and the earth was ready for new birth! Creation was groaning with labor pains. Come, let us join Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph across the way, let us join the midwives of this birth!

They watched as Joseph of Arimathea wrapped the body of their beloved Lord in clean linen cloth. They watched as he laid the body in the tomb. They watched as he sealed the tomb with a great stone to keep out the grave robbers. And they watched as others came to keep out a different type of grave robber. For, as *Matthew* describes it,

“The chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, ‘Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.’” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.’ So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.”

All of this to say that nobody was going to get into that tomb! And, more importantly for the Romans and the Pharisees, nobody was going to get out of that tomb!

God, of course, had different plans! And the creator of heaven and earth could not be thwarted by a stone-sealed cave and stone-hearted guards! The earth shook and quaked, just as it had shaken and quaken on the night that Jesus died. Again, our midwives to the new birth were there. Mary and Mary watched as an angel of the Lord, a messenger of God, descended from heaven and rolled the great stone away. His appearance was reminiscent of the Mount of Transfiguration, for he shone with the brilliance of lightning in clothing of the brightest white. So shocking was his *appearing* and his *appearance* that the stone-hearted guards who had been sent to keep the stone in place simply fell out, fainting in fear. Before the same could happen to our midwives, though, he spoke those angelic words of power: “Do not be afraid!”

Hmmmmmm! Now *that* takes me back! Let us see if you can remember it as well: “Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid**, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” Birth and new birth! Life and life again! Love and love again!

Do not be afraid! For see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people! For I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised! This will be a sign for you, you will find bands of cloth lying on the ground, no longer swaddling a body. **Do not be afraid!** Come and see, and then go to Galilee. Go, tell the other disciples. Go, tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and everywhere! Birth and new birth! Life and life again! Love and love again! That easily could have been the end of the story. The miraculous appearance of an angel of the Lord. The rolled-away stone. The empty tomb. That would have been sufficient evidence. Mary and Mary could have made the case with that. They could have convinced the others to make their way to Galilee, where the angel said that they would at least get to meet Jesus again. Indeed, they made off to do just that, leaving the tomb quickly, overwhelmed with joy but still trembling with fear even with the angel’s reassurance. And you know what? I can fully understand that fear!

We have had thousands of years of theology, ritual, and tradition for the resurrection to sink into our hearts and bones. For those women, though, that moment was *the* moment. No matter how brilliant and faithful they had been, there would have been no way for them to really understand Jesus’ teachings about resurrection and new life after death until it actually happened. His teachings would have been inspiring, beautiful, and life-giving, but they would have been abstract, ethereal, difficult to conceptualize. Seeing the empty tomb and hearing this holy messenger’s words, though, would have brought it home in the clearest way—with the concreteness of a heavy stone rolled away. It makes all the sense in the world to me that it might have been exactly this concrete revelation that bewildered and frightened them now—not the strange man or the absence of the body they were expecting to see.

For, the concrete truth of the Resurrection meant their own personal and collective transformation. Everything about their lives would change. And it is one of those tricky truths of humanity that transformation, no matter how amazing the possibility, can be the hardest and scariest thing of all. They had been fully prepared to continue with their ritual of grief. They were seeking a sense of closure. They were coming to terms with the

idea that life might go back to the way it was, back to the way things had been three years before, when this messiah was just a prophecy on a scroll in the temple. Ufffff, the power of the idol of the way it was! No matter how oppressive and miserable and limiting it was for them! No matter how oppressive and miserable and limiting it *is* for us! I am sure that all of us have had that experience of standing on the very precipice of transformation into something marvelous, about to break free of the cocoon, spread our wings and fly into the brilliant blue sky of the unknown, only to step back, shrink back, and seek the solace of the way it was, turning the cocoon into a tomb instead of a womb.

Oh yes, transformation is scary indeed! It means entering into the unknown. It means going through growing pains. It means relying on faith. It means trusting in God. It means encountering strangers. It means having worldviews changed. It means seeing things differently, hearing things differently, smelling things differently, tasting things differently, feeling things differently.

So yes, the women still had a bit of fear about them. But then they heard another voice. They heard a voice they knew oh so well, and it must have been the sweetest sound they had ever heard.

“Greetings!”

His plan had been to meet them back in a land called Galilee, back in the place they all called home. But, he could not wait! Perhaps he saw the fear on the faces of his beloved Marys, his beloved midwives, and, looking upon them with compassion could not let them go one step farther without the blessed assurance he could provide. Perhaps he saw his beloved Marys and simply could not contain himself, so overwhelmed was he, also, with joy! Either way or both ways, he decided to make an early appearance for these women, his most faithful disciples.

In his voice, they heard the fullness and wholeness of perfect love. And so they did the only thing that made sense. They took hold of his flesh. They grabbed his feet and *felt* the fullness and wholeness of perfect love in his resurrected body. And they worshiped him. And he spoke again. “**Do not be afraid!**” And this time they were afraid no more. May we be afraid no more!

Alelu alelu alelu alleluia, Praise ye the Lord!

Alelu alelu alelu alleluia, Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord, Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord, Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord, Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord!

Amen!

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

464

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867); alt.

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

Stanzas 1-3, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708
 Stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740

Adapted from *The Compleat Psalmist*, 1749
 Desc. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1955

Descant

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

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

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

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