

Easter Sunday Worship



CHRIST IS RISEN
ALLELUIA!

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Almighty God: through the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead you have given us a living hope. Keep us joyful in our trials, and guard our faith, so we may receive the wonderful inheritance of life eternal, which you have prepared for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Festive Prelude on LLANFAIR

McDonald

Dr. Terry McRoberts

OPENING SENTENCES *(Psalm 118:14, 22-24)*

Rev. John White

“The Lord is our strength and our might; he has become our salvation...The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

CHORAL INTROIT

Resurrection Alleluias

Hayes

Chancel Choir

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 232 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

EASTER HYMN

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. John White

One: Where is this Jesus, the one you call Messiah?
ALL: Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!
One: I do not see him. I don’t believe you.
ALL: (louder) Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!
One: Let me see his body, his hands and his feet.
ALL: We are Christ’s body; We are Christ’s feet.
One: You see the suffering in the world? Where is Jesus now?
ALL: We are going into the world to be the body of Christ.
One: Let us go together, let us partner with others.
ALL: For we are the body of Christ: let us share the Good News!

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: God of empty tombs and empty people:

us, and give us voice.

us, and give us new compassion.

When we want to stand with the high and mighty, forgive us, and put us next to the poor and oppressed. When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share your grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, forgive us, and fill us with your joy. In Christ we pray, Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter.
Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults, and gifts us with grace and hope.
Christ comes, to fill us with peace, that we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness.

ALL: *Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.*

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

Life High the Cross
Chancel Choir

arr. Nichols

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Dean Thomas (Reaffirmation of Faith)
Bonnie Thomas (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Rev. John White

Blest be the Tie that Binds (Hymn 306)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

*HYMN: 248 *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosannah!*

HYMN TO JOY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected verses from John 20

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

**Congregation standing, if able*

SERMON

Is It True?

Rev. John White

RESPONSE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Courtney Bowen

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. We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

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 Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OFFERTORY

In the Garden

arr. Miller

Dr. Terry McRoberts

**Doxology (Tune: 606)*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Dedicatory Prayer*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SENDING

**HYMN: 295 Go to the World!*

SINE NOMINE

*CHARGE + BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Halleluiah Chorus from "The Messiah"

Handel

Chancel Choir