



Church of the Hills
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday

“From Grief to Awe”

Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24

Isaiah 25:6-9

Mark 16:1-8

Pastor Richard Aylor

March 31, 2024

We are a vibrant family of faith rooted in God's Word, gathering together to worship and equipped to share the love of Christ in the world.

Prelude

Opening Chant

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!”

Purple 239 (v. 1)

“Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!”

Welcome

Pastor Richard Aylor

****Call to Worship**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

** Please stand if you are able

****Opening Hymn**

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

Purple Hymnal 232

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

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!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

****Invitation to Confession**

Linda LaGrange

Leader: Jesus' rising from the dead assures us that we, too, have been given new life.

People: Let us repent of our sin before God and one another, certain of God's mercy.

** Please stand if you are able

****Prayer of Confession**

Leader: All-knowing, all powerful God, we confess that, even on this most holy day, we are unable to believe in the victory over death shown to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: We confess our utter dependence on you not only for life but also for faith, hope, and love.

Leader: Without your astonishing appearance to our ancestors and your stunning presence throughout the ages, we would be lost.

People: Forgive us and transform us, that in every way our work and prayer will make whole what is broken and give peace on earth. Amen.

**** Declaration of Forgiveness and the Peace of Christ**

Leader: By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors, the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation.

People: You shall not die but live. The rejected cornerstone has become your strength and your song.

Leader: I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, who lives and reigns now and forever.

People: By the mercy of Christ, let us stand together forgiven and free.

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with those gathered here and those watching from home.

People: And, also with you.

Leader: Share the Peace of Christ with one another.

****Response to Forgiveness** "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!" Purple 239 (v. 2)

The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away.
Let all the earth rejoice and say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

** Please stand if you are able

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination.

All: Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your Word we may receive new life. Amen.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

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

²³ This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Ministry of Music

“Easter Celebration Medley”

arranged by Gary Lanier

Performed by Doug Brown, Christi Todd and Nancy Church

New Testament Reading

Mark 16:1-8

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. Amen.

Sermon

“From Grief to Awe”

Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke Jacob’s sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

‘Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days’ sleep in death as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus’ resurrection!

Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb’s dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal:
but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing
your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

****Doxology**

“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

Purple Hymnal 250 (v. 1)

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, and apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Prayers of the People and the 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.

****Please stand if you are able**

****Closing Hymn**

“The Day of Resurrection”

Purple Hymnal 233

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 has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own “All hail!” and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

****Charge and Blessing**

Leader: And the people of God say

People: Alleluia. Amen.

Postlude

*Please join us for Fellowship Time in the Narthex immediately following the Worship Service.
To all of our visitors, you are welcome to join us, and we look forward to getting to know you
during this time.*

**** Please stand if you are able**

THE EASTER LILIES IN THE SANCTUARY TODAY ARE A GIFT FROM THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WITH OUR THANK YOU!

Paul and Monica Rider in memory of Rev. Dale Rider and Jim & Vera Keasling

Donna and Jerry Bucholz in memory of their parents; Alvin and Beth; Russ and Doris

Larry and Linda LaGrange in memory of both of their parents

Cherie & Terry Braun in memory of Gerry Braun, HL and Helen Waters, Faith Anne Richard

Margi Masquelier in honor of her children Katherine, Meg and Michal and in honor of her grandchildren Amelia, Collin, Colette and Blaise

Ed Powers in honor of the Powers Family

For Pastoral Care:

Please contact Pastor Richard at 303-828-8263

A General Note regarding Financial Solicitations:

Please remember that a church leader will never directly solicit you for funds or the transfer of funds. We will only ask for your support of the church through the traditional process of filling out pledge cards and fulfilling that pledge accordingly.

Office Hours:

The Church Office is open Tuesday – Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Peg and Toby normally go to lunch between 12:30 and 1:00 and are back by 2:00). Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Deadlines:

The deadline for all Church Communication Publications and notifications is Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.

Additionally, please provide advance notice for any special projects you may have, so that time can be accurately allocated, supplies ordered, and quality and fairness can be provided for all parties concerned.

Please be aware that any items received after the deadline will go into the following week's communication publications and job tasks.

Church Officers:

Pastor – Richard Aylor
Office Administrator – Peggy Farnham (and Toby)
Choir Director – Nancy Church (Interim)
Finance Administrator – Tom Maxey
Treasurer/Trustee Permanent Endowment Fund – Jerry Bucholz
Clerk of Session – Judy Jensen

Elder – Worship – Christi Todd
Elder – Stewardship – Alan Lebsock
Elder – Love in Action – Vicki Kyle
Elder – Christian Education – Jill Green
Elder – Personnel – Ed Powers
Elder – Nominating – Mike Clinton
Elder – Administration & Communications – Shari Gulbrandsen

Deacons:

Donna Bucholz	Margaret Bailey
Monica Rider	Valorie Wells
Marilyn Sandifer	Laura McKnight
Dianne Lebsock	
Deb Powers	
Marjorie Clinton	

A special thank you to Chase Allbritton and Alexander Hiatt for helping with the tech.

*Hymnals are indicated for those that may have them at home.

Blue - “The Presbyterian Hymnal”
Red - “Songs for Praise and Worship”
Purple - “Glory to God”
Yellow - “Hymns for the Family of God”

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Liturgy and reflections are provided by “Feasting on the Word”, Liturgies for Year B. Volume 1