



RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE APRIL 4, 2021 AT 7:00 AM

* OPENING SENTENCES: THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad in God's new creation, for as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive again. Do not seek the living among the dead.

The sounds of weeping are turned to gladness and the cries of distress are turned to joy. living Lord is risen. Alleluia!

Do not seek the living among the dead,
The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

WELCOME

PRAYER OR ADORATION

Glory to you, O God: you have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us life eternal. Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to life abundant and everlasting. Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us to truth. Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever.

* EASTER HYMN #248

CHRIST IS RISEN, SHOUT HOSANNA

"HYMN TO JOY"

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!

God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave you shattered the darkest powers of the cosmos. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that so often lead to sin and death. We overlook the poor and the hungry. We pass by those who mourn. We ignore the cries of the oppressed and are indifferent to calls for peace. We care little for the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust in your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER

PSALM 118:14-24

O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
The steadfast love of our God endures forever.
 The Lord is my strength and my song;
The Lord has become my salvation.
 I shall not die, but I shall live;
I shall recount the great deeds of the Lord.
 Open to me the gates of righteousness
That I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
 I thank you, O God, that you have answered me.
You have become my 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 which the Lord has made **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

* HYMN #250

IN THE BLUB THERE IS A FLOWER

"PROMISE"

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

SECOND READING

MATTHEW 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And 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. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he^l lay. ⁷Then 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." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

SERMON

"SIT ON IT"

REV. DR. WALT PETERS

* HYMN #238

THINE IS THE GLORY

"JUDA MACCABEUS"

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won. Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain: Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom. Let the church with gladness hymns triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

Refrain: Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life! Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Refrain: Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

* HYMN #240

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! GIVE THANKS

"ALLELUIA NO. 1"

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

kerrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!

al - le - lu - ia! Praise to his name.

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

- 1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
- 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
- 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
- 4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.

Je - sus has died and has ris - en.

Now we shall live for - ev - er.

joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in bold.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Walt Peters
Liturgist/Guitarist.....Carolyn Mathews
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Ushers..... Dave & Cindy Corley

Worship & Music Notes

Today we welcome back our guest preacher, the Rev. Walt Peters. He served congregations in Macon, GA; Tampa, FL, and Augusta, GA, before coming to First Presbyterian in Westminster in 1999, being honorably retired by Baltimore Presbytery in October of 2013. In retirement he is an active participant in the Wild Wild West Ministry Group. He and his wife Rebecca reside in Hagerstown. They have three grown children and two grandchildren.

You are invited to join us at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary for our traditional Easter Morning Worship Service!

Next Sunday, April 11th, we will welcome back Rev. Rebecca Vardiman as our guest preacher for Holy Humor Sunday and David Stickler will serve as liturgist. Holy Humor Sunday is celebrating God's big joke on the Devil. "Jesus has returned!" We will welcome back Rev. Rebecca Vardiman as our guest preacher. Please come to church ready to celebrate! You are welcome to wear funny hats, outlandish clothes, silly shoes, etc..

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTERN MD HEALTH SYSTEM PRAYER VIGIL: Our congregation has been invited to join the community in a prayer vigil this evening at 8:00 PM at Western MD Health System. You are invited to surround the hospital in your vehicles and lift up thanks to the Lord for the decrease in covid-19 cases and also pray for nurses, doctors and staff of the hospital, as well as, the community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God's love in Christ where all of God's children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
- Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
- Sent to share God's love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015