



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Easter Sunday

April 4 , 2021

9:00 am

*“Do not abandon yourselves to despair.
We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”
–Pope John Paul II*

“Mary!”—John 20:16

**Prior to the service you are invited to prepare yourself for worship.
As the prelude begins, please prepare for worship in quiet attentiveness.**

Prelude

Risen Lord
arr. Joel Raney

Welcome

We are called to worship, drawing our attention forward and upward.

*Call to Worship

Psalm 118:1-2, 14, 17

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, “God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

The Lord is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

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

We focus our attention first on God’s Glory and offer our praise in word and song.

*Opening Prayer

We gather here today, All-Living God, because we can be nowhere else.

We praise you for your mighty works and commit ourselves to your eternal purposes.

**May we give ourselves more fully to living out the truth of the resurrection, not only on Easter,
but every day of our lives, even into the life everlasting. Amen!**

*Hymn # 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Reflecting on God’s Glory makes us aware of our common sinfulness and need for forgiveness.

***This honesty before God and each other opens our hearts to receive God’s forgiveness,
which we celebrate with song.***

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we give you thanks that on this splendid day of days you resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead.

You defeated death and established your reign over all things.

We confess that we continue to live in fear, and doubt or deny the grace you’ve given us.

**Grant us courage and grace to celebrate your resurrection victory
so that we might see your power made real in our world.**

While we may doubt, deny or forsake you, your ever-present grace surrounds and sustains us. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

God says, “I hear you. I see you. You are forgiven.”

God’s love is like the sun.

**No matter how lost we are in the night,
day after day, the light will find us.**

Rest easy. You are held in God’s warmth.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen!

Response

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Forgiven and restored,
we respond by giving of what God has given us,
and we pray together as an active part of our worship and witness.**

Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Ministry Updates

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.**

***The Scriptures hold a central place in our worship and so are read early and often.
We ask God to inspire both the reading and the hearing of these words
and listen for what God may reveal in them.
The music and sermons are designed to interpret the Scriptures
and help us to apply them in our daily living.***

Prayer for Illumination

As you opened the tomb, open our minds and hearts to your wondrous glory, O Living God. Amen!

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18

*The disciples are confused and concerned when they arrive at the empty tomb
until Jesus calls them by name.*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Special Music

Easter Fantasy on Ancient Hymns
arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Sermon

"My God!"

Bob Sheldon

**Once we hear God's Word we want to respond in word and in deed,
and so we say what we believe.**

Affirmation of Faith

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" We believe! Amen!

***We are sent into the world to bear witness to God's Glory and Love,
knowing that God has gone ahead of us to prepare the way and to prepare the people we will help.
Worship ends on this hopeful note—and continues in all we do and become.***

Hymn # 246

Christ is Alive!

Blessing

Choral Response

Hallelujah Chorus
George Frideric Handel

Postlude

Tocatta from the 5th Organ Symphony
Charles-Marie Widor

WHAT HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Kira Boros, Choir Accompanist; Reid Simmons, organ scholar; Lyndsay Varsaci, soprano; David Sabella, timpani; Pete Prochnau, cymbals; The Chancel Choir.

Miner Street Brass: Doug Congdon-Martin, French horn; Brendan Egan, trombone; Ron Ford, trumpet; Pete Galloway, tuba; Charity Harter, bass trombone; Madison Smith, trumpet; Dave Kolonauski, trombone; George Whittam, trumpet; Monica Zheng, tuba.

The Chancel Ringers: Kira Boros, Pete Galloway, Brooke Gamble, Victoria Gansner, Brittany Irwin, Alicia Liermann, Nolan Prochnau, Mike Spaziani, Kristy Stevens, Janet Thompson, Dan Williams, Linda Weamer, Lyndsay Varsaci.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Ellen Endsloew and family in the death of her father, James Endsloew.

About Today's Service Easter Sunday is the most important Sunday of the Church Year, a time when we all remember and celebrate that life does not end in death nor is life defined by death. God in infinite love transcends all of our expectations. In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we hear our name.

Prayer for Today On this Easter Sunday I remember all that you've done for us. Help me to remember your love not only on this day, but on every day now and ever more. Remind me that death, separation, and division do not have the last word. That your resurrection is as true today as it was when the tomb was opened. Hallelujah, Amen.

Women's Spring Study - All women are invited to join us for a six-week study as we read through Jen Wilkin's "In His Image: 10 Ways God Calls us to Reflect His Character." We'll read two chapters each week and then discuss when we gather via Zoom, beginning Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. Led by Lorrie Fabrizio and Elizabeth Hess. Sign up at <https://www.firstpreswc.com/womensstudy>.

Spring Bridge Study – The Bridge adult study group will resume meeting on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm over Zoom beginning April 7. Conversations will be focused on *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry. Participants are encouraged (but not required) to purchase their own copy of the book and read in preparation for conversation each week. Contact Sara Pantazes if you need assistance ordering the book or want to be on the email list for this study.

April Anti-Racism Study – All members of the First Pres community are invited to gather on Zoom on Sunday, April 18 from noon – 1 pm for our monthly anti-racism conversation. This month we will listen and learn from the YouTube video series, “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man.” Contact Director of Christian Education Sara Pantazes (spantazes@firstpreswc.com) with any questions.

EASTER LILIES DONATIONS

DONOR:

Anderson, Bill & Martha

Black, Dave & Nancy

Black, Sandy & Sarah

Burke, Tracy & Rick

Coxe, Gail

Eck, Betsy & Scott

Galloway, Peter

Hambleton Family

Kohler, Connie

Kupfer, George & Marilyn

Lewis, Elle & Family

Lobb, Debbie

Myhre, Charlie & Kathie

Plank, Ellen

Scott, Barbara

Single Family

Snyder, Barbara

Strode, Betty

Turner, Gail

Tyson, Ken

Tyson, Mary

Westhafer, Dennis & Kathy

DONOR:

Burke, Rick Tracy

Chew, Janet & Al

Gansner, Bruce & Vicki

Lidle, Amy & Barbara

Schwarting, Michelle

Skomorucha, Frank & Kathleen

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Jim & Marion Black,

Ethel Anderson, John Reardon

Jim & Marion Black

Jim & Marion Black

Patricia Daniel Velez, Dick Burke;

Our Grandparents

My mother, my brother, my father

Our Son, Timothy

Loved Ones

Uncle Brian Hambleton; Our GG

Son Dan Kohler

Loved Ones

Earl T. Lewis, M.D., Donald B. Brooks

Steve Lobb, Millie & Harry Gill, Rich Lobb, Dana Jelinek

Our Parents

Husband Bob Plank

Loved Ones

David A. Single, Cora Teter

Isaleen Montgomery

Joseph Strode, Peggy Cloud, Jane Hewson

Paul & Nancy Ford, C. Patricia Turner

My Parents: Helen Manno & Weldon Tyson

My Parents: Allen & Hazel Smedley,

Dorie & Ed Brubaker

Loved Ones

IN HONOR OF:

Alyssa & Brian Kressler, Ryan & Ellette Burke

Our Amazing Grandchildren, Gabrielle,

Tanner, Jimmy & Charlie

Our Grandchildren

Ken & Cynthia Lidle

Barbara Burkman

Laurence & Mary Jo Miller; Frank & Hilda Skomorucha