

ORDER OF WORSHIP

LEASIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 4, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday

GATHERING

PRELUDE Easter Alleluia - A. Ottenwalder
WELCOME
A TIME OF CENTERING & STILLNESS
CALL TO WORSHIP
HYMN *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* No. 243
OPENING PRAYER
PRAYER OF CONFESSION
ASSURANCE OF PARDON
PEACE OF CHRIST
EASTER SUNDAY LITURGY

WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC *Largo* from the "New World Symphony"
A. Dvorak, Arr. by F. Kreisler
PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24
1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11
HYMN *I danced in the morning/ Lord of the dance* No. 250
JOHN 20:1-18
HYMN *There is a redeemer* No. 358
SERMON First Witness

THE LORD'S SUPPER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed
HYMN *Worship the Lord* No. 555
INVITATION
GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
THE LORD'S PRAYER
PRESENTING OF THE BREAD AND WINE
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
OFFERINGS Easter-Dawn - A. Claussmann
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

HYMN *Thine be the glory* No. 258
COMMISSIONING
BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE *Hosannah! Chorus Magnus* – J. P. E. Hartmann

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Some are making sure to stay more than the accepted distance away from those they long to gather into their arms, some are still stuck in that grave called lockdown,

All: but this is the day the Lord plants joy in our winter hearts; drowns out despair's cries with laughter.

One: We still see these days as filled to overflowing with uncertainty, hoping to get through today without starting to worry.

All: This is a time of uncertainty and fear, we wonder what today will bring, we worry about the coming tomorrow,

One: but this is the day the Lord has made: the day grace does blow through the cemeteries; resurrection wonder outshines the brightest sun; an empty tomb fills us with good news. The Word of life spoke:

All: so we could hear the 'Alleluias!' of the angels.

One: The Word of life reached out:

All: so we could touch the hope which heals us.

One: The Word of life walked out of death's dread tomb:

All: so we could follow him into life forever. Jesus Christ our Lord has Risen

One: He has Risen indeed!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Whether we can gather as one today, or feel we need to stay apart; whether we continue to huddle in the shadows and take tentative steps into the light, on this day, we come to you, fear-removing God. We would like to think we have been so distanced from you, that you have not noticed our foolishness. During the last months, we have kept the door to hope shut so tight, afraid to open it. So eager to go back to before this pandemic year began, we are hesitant to trust in the future you hold out to us. Yet, as persistent as Mary at the tomb, Joy of our hearts, you come, to open the gates of hope, so we might walk in the gardens of life; you come, to open the gates of grace, so we might plant peace in the wilderness of the world; you come, to open the gates of resurrection, so we might know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: This is the day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end.

All: We will sing and dance on this day! We are still, we will be again, we are always Easter people! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

One: Let us pass the peace of Christ to one another. The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

EASTER SUNDAY LITURGY

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: He was dead and now he lives.

All: Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

One: The tomb is empty. He was dead and now he lives. The journey begins again. Come, let us follow him.

One: And let us start the new journey with prayer:

All: God of life, you came to us and you redeem all things. And now we give ourselves to you and continue your work of good news and reconciliation in the world. Give us the strength to follow you on the mission you have called us to. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

One: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

All: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

One: God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

All: begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

One: For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

All: On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

One: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

All: He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

All: We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

One: We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts:

All: we lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give God thanks and praise:

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The prayer opens with thanksgiving for creation and for God's mighty acts throughout salvation history. The people join in the ancient song after these or similar words:

One:we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayers of thanksgiving continue for the work of Jesus Christ, his life, death, and resurrection and for the institution of the Lord's Supper. The people are invited to:

One: ...proclaim together the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Thanksgiving continues for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit is invoked followed by a doxology and the people say:

All: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: As our Lord taught us, we now pray:

All: 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, the power, and the glory;

for ever and ever. AMEN

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Together or alone, we continue to offer our gift to others –

All: to those who hunger for hope in a time of uncertainty,

One: to those who long for community to replace their loneliness,

All: for those who seek faith instead of fears. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

COMMISSIONING

One: Scattered from one another,
we can still go with God into the world.

All: We will offer healing and hope to all who wander in the shadows of life.

One: Separated from one another,
we can still go with Jesus to serve others.

**All: We will listen to the ignored;
we will speak out for the forgotten.**

One: Together once again, after so long,
we can still join the Spirit in offering steadfast love.

**All: We will hold on to the fallen;
we will rebuild shattered communities.**