

April 12, 2020 GATHERING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Dear Friends, behold the victory of our God: Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: Sin and death shall reign no more.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: Let this place resound with joy. **People: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Almighty God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death and opened the way to eternal life. As the empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death, make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life, that all we do may proclaim to the world that Christ has risen. We pray through Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today" Hymnal 232

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

CALL TO CONFESSION

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Like the women who came to your tomb as the first day of the week was dawning and found the tomb empty, we have such good news to tell, for you, Lord, have cast off your grave clothes and shattered the powers of sin and death. But we have heard this news before. How often have we let our "alleluias" fall silent as we passed through the church doors? How often have we returned to daily routines as if Easter changes nothing? How often have our actions belied the power of resurrection to transform our world? Risen Lord, Forgive us for our halfhearted witness. Free us from the bindings of fear or disappointment. Fill us with the light of resurrection and send us into the world to proclaim in word and deed that Christ has triumphed over all the powers of darkness. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Listen, church: God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:1-6 Matthew 28:1-10 Colossians 3:1-4

SERMON

There Will Always Be Easter!

Rev. Piper Cartland

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, we praise you that your glory has dawned on us,

and brought us into this Day of Resurrection. We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son, and that he has conquered death, risen to rule over all powers of this earth. We praise you that he summons us into new life, to follow him with joy and gladness. By your Spirit, lift us from doubt and despair, and set our feet in Christ's holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life, and all we have may show forth his love. Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS PASTORAL PRAYER, followed by The Lord's Prayer (we say *sin*)

MINUTES FOR MINISTRY OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

HYMN "How Can I Keep From Singing?" Hymnal 821

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Announcements

Each year at Easter our congregation participates in the special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Our offerings, combined with churches worldwide, support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger Program, and programs that invest in communities experiencing racism, oppression, poverty and injustice.

Ways to give: 1) Send a check to the church- PO Box 771337 Eagle River, AK 99577- with OGHS in the memo line, or 2) Donate online by credit card at presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs.

Are you technologically gifted? If you are willing to serve as tech support during the service, providing over-the-phone advice to people having trouble connecting to Facebook live, please contact Paul Cartland. The combined youth group is not meeting today but will resume next Sunday at 1:00 pm on Zoom.

Office hours are now limited due to the Mayor's "hunker down" order. Office phone messages and emails are still being checked regularly. The office phone line is being forwarded during office hours, 9-1 M-F, to Elizabeth's phone.

We have a prayer deacon available during the livestreaming. You can text her any prayer requests that you would like Piper to mention during the Pastoral Prayer. This week the deacon is Paige Saylor. If you need her cell number, please call the church office.Paige will also be watching the chat on the Sunday livestream and text any requests to Piper. Please remember that those comments are part of the live broadcast and visible to anyone watching.

Here are some ways you can keep up with your financial stewardship:

1) Donate online with a credit card by clicking the link from our website: <u>www.erpresbyterian.org</u>.

2) Visit your local bank or your bank's website and set up a recurring electronic payment (just as you might do for your mortgage or other payments). Your bank may require the church's account number. Please call the office for that information. In most cases, this method will avoid any transaction fees.
3) Checks can also be mailed to PO Box 771337 Eagle River, AK 99577-1337.

Today we are hosting a Virtual Coffee Hour at 11:00 a.m. Use the emailed Zoom link to join us, and make sure to wear your best 'socially distant' Easter finery as we will be able to see and hear each other S; coffee and Easter candy optional. Please be patient as we work out Zoom security glitches!

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

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 heav'nly 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 his love; Alleluia! praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]