

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT CALDWELL

Sunday April 9, 2023

10:00 AM

Easter Sunday

GATHERING MUSIC

REFLECTION

"Do not be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has been raised, as he said." Why is it that we only hear the first half of Jesus' prediction: "The Son of Man will suffer and be killed..." but forget what comes next? Why do we come to so many situations alert to signs of death, disappointment, and defeat, when we have been promised life and hope and victory is waiting there?"

-Alyce McKenzie

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE EASTER STORY BEGINS

John 20: 1-10

Page 108, NT

PRELUDE

"Canzones"

Gabrieli

CALL TO WORSHIP: Based on John 20:11-16

L: Mary stood outside the tomb crying. She saw two angels dressed in white. The angels asked:

Men: Woman, why are you weeping?

Women: They have taken away my Lord and I don't know where they have laid him.

L: Jesus was standing there, unrecognized and said:

Men: Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?

Women: Tell me where you have put him and I will get him.

Men: Mary!

Women: Teacher!

Men: Go tell the others.

L: The Lord is risen.

All: He is risen indeed

*HYMN NO. 232

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

EASTER HYMN

1. Jesus Christ is risen today: Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
2. 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!
3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where angels ever sing. Alleluia!
4. 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!

LITANY OF AFFIRMATION

We thought you were dead. We thought the cross was the end. We thought that when the stone rolled over the tomb, that was it.

But this is it:

the dead are living; the cross is empty; the stone is rolled, and one word describes it all: Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

We thought the story was finished. We thought the hope had ended. We thought that when the tomb was sealed, that was it.

But this is it:

the story has just begun; the hope is newly born; the tomb is empty, and one word says it all: Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

We thought that when they crucified you, death had defeated life, and that was it.

But this is it:

Love is stronger than death, and one word says it all: Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

*HYMN NO. 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI (Greatest)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-2

Page 534, OT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

Craig Courtney

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 28:1-10

Page 32, NT

SERMON

“Crack Open Some Easter Eggs and Be Cracked Open” Rev. Bill Schram

*HYMN NO. 238

“Thine Is the Glory”

JUDAS MACCABEUS

1. 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 the body lay.
**Refrain: Thine is glory; risen, conquering son:
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.**
2. Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting
**Refrain: Thine is glory; risen, conquering son:
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.**
3. 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 glory; risen, conquering son:
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Hark Ten Thousand Harps and Voices”

Craig Courtney

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.

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE

INVITATION TO GIVING

*HYMN NO. 248

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

HYMN TO JOY

1. Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.
2. 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.
3. 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!

*BENEDICTION

This is the good news:

Jesus is risen!

This is the moment to proclaim:

Jesus is alive!

This is the gospel we share:

Jesus is with us!

POSTLUDE

“Improvisations on VICTIMAE PASCHALI”

Würth’s Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1859
arr. Peter Candela

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Valerie Shondel, Director of Music, Conductor and Organ

Chancel Choir

Chancel Handbell Choir

Gramercy Brass

Adrienne Ostrander, Percussion

Peter Candela, Organ

Ray Liptak, AV Engineer

Michael Sperrazza, & Matthew Califf AV Team