

Order of Worship for at Home Use Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

Welcome to worship with Grace@Home!
We pray that you are blessed as you worship, that God will provide you with all joy, hope and mercy as you enter into His Presence.

Easter Sunday.

He is RISEN!

He is RISEN INDEED!

As we begin you are invited to **prepare your worship space.**

For worship on Easter Sunday: You are invited to **decorate** your worship space with a symbol or two which will remind you of the Resurrection of our Lord. As we will read in scripture, images of the empty tomb and new life are called for today. You may want to bring in a stone from your yard, indicating the empty tomb, bring in flowers or print and color butterflies, (available at this link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1OvrUTUzYHcRLEkekBgKvgXaICt74w0IT> or <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v48tmv9ETXVgo0Mh4Dfc3AjYmt1Xq0Y6/view?usp=sharing>) to indicate new life in Christ. Of course, incorporate your family traditions as much as possible: Easter eggs, chocolate and candles, which also remind us that Christ IS Risen! We are invited into new life in Him, and that He is the LIGHT of the world. NOTHING is sweeter!



We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Easter Sunday Worship Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzVmWhRdNfM>

Welcome/Call to Worship

https://youtu.be/0QRrJ_QAvZ0

Welcome to worship with Grace Presbyterian Church! We come as the joyful people of God to gather at God's throne of grace and celebrate our risen Lord. HE is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Let us worship God!

Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

<https://youtu.be/CFUdoNLG190>

Lisa Elliott and Dr. David Dorway

Sharing the Peace of Christ

***The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you...
and also with you.***

In this time of social distancing it is important for us to remember that in Christ we are connected to all who believe in Jesus in every time and place. As we share the peace of Christ today we use the familiar words, "The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you... and also with you."

*Now, or after your time of worship, reach out via text, email, phone or video call, to someone outside of your home extending the invitation to enter into the peace of Christ with our faith community.
Praise God, that His peace is with us, always!*

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://youtu.be/sq7w0mUAbg4>

Let us pray together...Today, we come to Your throne of grace, looking, praying, hoping for evidence of Your resurrection. We need, O God, to see Your light overtaking darkness, hope winning, and life springing forth. We long to emerge from the dark places of this world, of our souls, and step into Your light. Today, as we pray we lift up our heads and our hearts and we revel in the knowledge that Jesus is Risen. He is risen, indeed! The tomb in which He was laid, is empty. The work of redemption is finished.

As we pray, Holy God, we confess that we remain in darkness. Stuck in patterns of destruction or anxiety, lost in our grief, choosing to get by with scarcity instead of embracing Your abundance. Forgive us for failing to do the hard work of transformation, and for refusing to joyfully partake of the blessings and graces that you wish to bestow upon us. Unlike the caterpillar, we spin a cocoon and choose to move in and make our home, instead of seeking the beauty and grace of becoming more. As we worship this day, help us to gather the courage to emerge, as a butterfly, out of the darkness. Grant us grace to seek to be the new creations we were designed to be by Your hand. Help us in becoming and transforming into the likeness of Christ, those who carry the strength and beauty of Christ, and fully live into a life of joy, abundance, grace and love.

Holy God, as we seek Your forgiveness, bring to mind those things we have done and failed to do...that as we pray, Your grace would abound and we would be transformed, forgiven, restored, and renewed.

God You are Holy, Holy, Holy...God of might and majesty. We praise you today, as Easter people, proclaiming our Risen Lord, and knowing that He has won the victory. Today we lift up our world, laid low by sickness, grant protection, health, treatments and cure. Grant us wisdom in the days ahead, and by Your hand the ability to live boldly into our calling as Easter people. Sharing Your light and love and the message of the gospel.

Today we pray that you would help us to be joyful, Easter people, living into the resurrection with grace and freedom. Grant us thankful hearts as we pray in Jesus' holy name... praying the words He taught us to pray saying...<https://youtu.be/C51ijZ3pPDo>

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 and ever. Amen!

We Listen to God's Word

Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

<https://youtu.be/C63z5hCd7bc>

Lisa Elliott, Jill Usry-Taylor and Dr. David Dorway

Children's Message <https://youtu.be/k2X05Lw9R0c> Pastor Jim

Today our children's message challenges our children to see the signs of new life. The children are asked to go outside, look at the world around them and see the signs of spring and new life. Birds, bunnies and spring flowers all tell us that life abounds and that our Creator is a God of life. Today is Easter. Easter is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the day that we remember that Jesus was raised to life and as children of God we can have new life with Him forever.

Hymn

Crown Him!

<https://youtu.be/MYAzYcxy3Q>

Kathy Koch and Savannah Scarlett

Reading of the Word

Matthew 28:1-10

<https://youtu.be/SYK5xgzd4bk>

Karen Bowers, liturgist

Message

"Do Not Be Afraid, Go and Tell"

<https://youtu.be/2nBMWlucXGo>

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

Today's second reading is the Apostle Paul's understanding of the resurrection of Christ. He wrote these words in Colossians 3:1-4

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your^{al} life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

He has risen! He has risen indeed! This morning we celebrate our story. The resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians worship wherever they are all across the globe. Seekers look in wonder and the world marvels on this day. For is this the day that all of creation celebrates life, life that is redeemed and eternal. We all know the story. The women went to the tomb to prepare the body, an angel meets them and with an earthquake the stone is rolled away. There is nobody in the tomb. But the tomb isn't empty, says Richard Fairchild, it is full, full of good news. The good news is that Jesus lives, he is not dead, he is not held by death in the tomb, he is alive. Jesus said He would rise from the dead and He said that those who follow him would be raised as well. Jesus has been raised! His promises have been proven true and now we are to live into those promises. The tomb on Easter morning was full, not with the body of Jesus but with Good News and promise.

This morning we celebrate Easter. It is the center of the Christian church. The Apostle Paul says in I Corinthians that, *"if Jesus has not been raised, then our faith is in vain"*. Well, today, we know that our faith is not in vain, today we remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We remember the tomb that could not hold Jesus in death, and we remember the tomb that was full of good news that it is meant to be shared.

The thing about truth and good news is that it is never to be kept a secret. Look closely at this text. In Matthew's story of the resurrection, there are four commands that are given to the two Mary's. The first is the command not to be afraid. After all that had happened now there is an earthquake, an angel and an empty tomb. It was too much and so, as is often the case when there is an encounter with the almighty, God sends the message, do not be afraid. Why? Because when you are afraid, you are not good for anything. When we are afraid, we are like the guards, unable to move, frozen and useless. So, the first words are do not be afraid. I suspect those words come to the Marys because God has a plan for them, and the parallelization of fear has no place in God's plan. We live an active faith, so do not be afraid, rather be ready when God calls.

The next command is to come and see. Come and see the miracle. Come and see that the tomb is filled with good news, the good news that Jesus has risen from the dead and everything he has said is proven true. Come and see. Why must they see? Because sometimes we need to see to believe. You know Jesus also says "come and see", to the other disciples when just a few nights later he meets the doubting disciples in the upper room and he allows them to examine his wounds. I think Jesus bids us come and see to prepare us for the next two commands.

The two commands that come next are the crux of this narrative. In fact, they are the same command given twice. First it is given by the angel, the messenger of God, and then by the risen Christ. Go! Go and tell his disciples, says the angel. Go! Go and tell my brothers, says Jesus. The first command of Jesus, after he has been raised from the dead in Matthew is go! The first command of the risen lord is a command to the women, the only ones who had been with Jesus to the end, was to go. Get active, go and spread the news.

Nothing happens when you are inactive. Things don't change. If you are losing, you will continue to lose, if you are in need, you will continue in need. If you don't get up and get going, you will remain forever where you are.

For you playground football enthusiasts out there, do you remember the greatest of all football play ever called on the school playground? It was the famous, “everybody go long” play. Except for the big guy who couldn’t run, he had to stay back and block. Everybody go long. It was when the game was close, but you were losing. It was a last chance play. When you needed a score, a change in the game. The quarterback, the big athletic kid in the neighborhood would say those wonderful words, “everybody go long, just get open, I will throw it to somebody.” Games were won and lost on this play. Legendary suburban lore developed across our country from this one play, everybody go long. You know why that is, because in that simple playground game, often everything would change in an instant when the entire team got active and went for it. Often it was the scrawny little kid who lived down the block who never caught anything who reached out for the winning pass. Why? Because he got up and into the game. You gotta get up and get going. “Go, tell the disciples, Go tell my brothers, the first command of the risen lord is, “go long”, everything is about to change.

Do not be afraid, come and see, now go and tell. Go long, go. Today we are in a time unlike any other in world history. Never before has the entire world economy shut down. The future is uncertain and for many, maybe most of us, difficult times are ahead. To God says:

“set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Do not be afraid, set you hearts on the things above. God is on His throne, you are loved and no matter what we face in life, we have risen with Christ. He has risen, He has risen indeed. We will rise also. And if we just get up and go, we will be part of God’s great resurrection bringing hope and light to the world.

Happy Easter, stay safe, know that God is going with you.

Hymn

Because He Lives!

<https://youtu.be/72VHweOWozY>

Kathy Koch and Dana Pope

We Respond to the Voice of God

Tithes & Offerings

https://youtu.be/XYdpXg_o2so

In these moments, remember and share ways that God has brought light and life, joy and other blessings into your life this past week. In addition, share ways you will offer yourself to God today and in the days ahead. Take this time to return your tithe to the church via mail or online giving, using text to give or the following link:

<https://onrealm.org/gracepclv/-/give/now>

Offertory Prayer

God of life and abundance, bless us as we offer all that we have and all that we are, for we know that we only have because You have first been generous to us. Bless us today with open hands and open hearts, and enough to share, that Your Kingdom would be blessed, in Jesus name, Amen.

Hymn

“Doxology”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axWpufUJ18Q>

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Hymn

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth

https://youtu.be/_At93tzSV5M

Lisa Elliott and Dr. David Dorway

Benediction

https://youtu.be/sS_RusOcpY4

Today we have been challenged to not be afraid, to come and see and to go with the good news of Jesus Christ. We may be going to our homes, we may be quarantined with loved ones, but God is sending us with good news. Because we are called to go our traditional blessing at Grace rings true now more than ever:

Go in peace and know you go nowhere by accident. It is God who is sending you. So, go with the power of God Almighty, the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Go, and for heaven's sake, make a difference!

Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus

<https://youtu.be/rsf4T5aGJj8>

Dr. David Dorway

As you continue to worship this week, please keep the following people in prayer, and reach out to one another in word or deed.

In Need of Prayer

Violet Cross (*Spanish Hills Wellness Suites*)

Dolores Harris (*Merrill Gardens*)

Mary Phillips (*Legacy House*)

Bill Franklin (*Summerlin Hospital*)

Judy Aitken, Becky Aldridge, Alice Black, Bill Carlston, Bob Clark, Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Pennie Everhart, Joice Franklin, Pam Kodey, Lara Kolberg, Dorell Koon, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles, Beth More, Don Neeley, Maggie O'Donnell, Alice & Gary Oiler, Dodi Palmer, Russ & Pat Reid, Aminta & Jorge Santanilla, Marty Swartout, Nick Vogelzang, Sharon Wilson, Dick Wohletz, and Lynne Zenier.

In Memoriam:

Jack Crockett 3/18/2020

Randy Innis 3/18/2020

Clark Trapp 3/18/2020

Ruthy Stull 3/19/2020

Ted Phillips 4/1/2020