

## Order of Worship for at Home Use

**April 4, 2021**  
**Easter Sunday**

Welcome to worship with Grace@Home!

We pray that you are healthy and well as you worship this week.

If you wish to worship via the video, click this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ET\\_zkM-HCI0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ET_zkM-HCI0)

As the joyful people of God, battered and bruised by this COVID and cultural storm, anxious to return to the in-person community of faith, we continue to worship our Risen LORD. This is our joy and our purpose. We continue to be separate, but together, as God's family in the mystery of faith.

This week, as we worship, we turn our attention, our minds and hearts over to God. Even though they may be filled with swirling thoughts, eager anticipation, frustration, and uncertainty, we offer them in worship. We rely on Christ Jesus as He again gathers us into His presence. In these moments, we ask that God's light of truth will shine on us as we pray and deal responsibly with all that confronts us. As the people of God we turn to the One who knows, loves, sets us on right paths, forgives, and never leaves us.

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

We will be entering into the sacrament of communion today. Please prepare your bread and juice/wine ahead of time. If you don't have one or the other, use what is on hand. A roll or crackers, water or wine - all will be fine as we celebrate the mystery and gift of communion, and gather at the table Jesus has prepared.

With love and grace, Pastor Dana





*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 the world continues to be isolated, and many are feeling anxious, as Christians we share the peace of Christ as a way to offer hope and the joy of Christ. Again 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 Jim Houston-Hencken

We praise you, O God, for your mighty love has broken the absolute power of death. Your risen body shows that no tragedy, no loss, no betrayal is final. You have the last Word, and like the first, it is the Word of life. Grant us the wisdom to measure all griefs, and triumphs against your empty tomb, so that no earthly tragedy will drive us to despair and no earthly achievement will delude us with its promise of power or recognition. Grant us grace to live in the freedom of your resurrection, unhampered by fear of death or doubt about life. Give us grace for others, compassion for the needy, care for the suffering and hope for the distraught. When our course on earth is done, cause us to rise in your likeness and live in your light.

We pray this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ saying

*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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

## **We Listen to God's Word**

Hymn/Praise                      Jesus Loves Me                      **\*\*not in video\*\***  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C63z5hCd7bc>

Children's Message                      Pastor Dana Pope

Special Music                      "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"                      arr. F. Bock  
Brass, Timpani & Chancel Choir

Reading of the Word                      Mark 16:1-8                      Pastor Dana Pope  
Message                      "Living in a Dangling Conjunction"

**We are Easter People. Today we celebrate our Risen LORD.**

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!**

**Mark's gospel speaks to us poignantly this year on this Resurrection Sunday.**

**We turn to the Gospel of Mark and begin reading chapter 16, verse 1.**

**When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup>Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup>and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"**

**<sup>4</sup> But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.**

**<sup>6</sup> "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"**

**<sup>8</sup> Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.**

**Please pray with me...**

It occurs to me that more this year than maybe most years, we empathize with Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome...

They had just walked through a nightmare of a week. A rollercoaster, really.

These women. They had been there for all of it. Dinners and anointing with Jesus and the disciples, prayers in the garden and Jesus' arrest and trial. They had walked behind Jesus as He was led to Golgotha. They had been there when the soldiers mocked Him. They had watched Jesus take His last breath, say "it is finished" and die, and maybe even assisted as Joseph of Arimathea had taken Jesus down off the cross, wrapped His body and taken it to the tomb.

Truly. On that early morning, they must have been completely emotionally and physically exhausted.

He had died on Friday. In the meantime, they must have been terrified that the soldiers would come for them next... yet, on Sunday morning, before it was light, they went and purchased spices ...walked to the borrowed tomb...to continue to take care of Jesus.

Jesus, the One they followed and served. The One they had put their hope in. The One they had learned from. The One they loved. The One that revealed to them the Holy God.

They continue to do what they did.

In the early morning light, they worried about details...

I guess it's what you do when you grieve. Take care of the details... focus on the next thing that must be done. One thing at a time... you continue to put one foot in front of another.

Is that what many of us have been doing for the past year? Putting one foot in front of another? Maybe taking care of details that we have long put off in our homes and lives. Reading the books, taking on the projects, cleaning out closets, planting the garden, making a patio? Just taking care of details until real life can begin again?

As the women walked as the sun rose...they wondered, who will roll that huge and heavy stone away, so we can take care of this?

And then they were there... probably having a hard time understanding what they were seeing... the stone was already rolled away...

And a young man, an angel?...there...telling them *don't be alarmed?*

What?? BUT Jesus is gone! Don't be alarmed?? What a nightmare!

Go and tell people? Tell them that a crazy young man (angel?) was there, where Jesus should have been and said... yea. Give me a minute!

And the women leave...really..they don't just leave... they run away...

In fear and silence. It seems they want to get back to real life. Want to wake up from the nightmare!

So much of the last year has been fear and silence for our world.

We have been through a lot, a rollercoaster, really – a year ago we were shut down, on a pause, our world was reeling, grieving, afraid. Our energy was spent watching news reports and trying to find new ways to grocery shop, the church was learning a new way to worship, and we were unable to gather to comfort one another, help one another in times of crisis, support one another as we grieved... and we couldn't cope like we normally would have. We didn't know we were just getting started.

I wonder: Why would Mark have left the gospel account of the resurrection like this? Running away...fear...silence...done.

Other gospel accounts find women running to tell the disciples what the angels said, and Peter along with the other disciple racing back to see the empty tomb. We see Mary, crying and talking with the gardener but then realizing it's actually Jesus. And in other places we find Jesus appearing after His resurrection – in a locked room, on the road to Emmaus, and even cooking breakfast.

But, here in Mark, after the angel's words "He is risen! He is not here!" we just see the women running away: "Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid." (Mark 16:8)

If you can believe it, it's even more strange in the original Greek, it says: "To no one nothing they said; they were afraid for..." not even a dangling preposition... it's a conjunction. "To no one nothing they said; they were afraid for...?" As someone said: its "syntax only Yoda could love."

I love the way Barbara Brown Taylor plays with the mystery around that abrupt ending of the gospel of Mark: *Did Mark slump over his manuscript at that point, dead from a sudden heart attack? Did a Roman soldier walk up behind him and take his pencil and say, 'Time's up, you're done'?* ...or maybe Mark was simply a brilliant storyteller, the James Joyce of his century, willing to take linguistic risks no one else dreamed of taking. Whatever the explanation, there it is: *'and they said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.'*

The early manuscripts of Mark just stop there. Along the way the monk-scribes wrote in 2 alternate endings... perhaps they couldn't stand the silence. Couldn't live with the fear. Look in your bible this week at the other endings that offer ways to resolve this strange ending... see what you think!

I suspect that Mark did it on purpose.

I think there is hope in this ending. It is a glimpse of real life that is yet to come.

These women seem like us! A bit shell shocked and imperfect, overwhelmed, uncertain, frightened and silent. They abruptly abandoned the details they had believed were very important... (do you think they left the spices, dropping them in their surprise?) and they run away.

Seriously, I would have needed a moment, too.

I have needed a moment or two in the past year!

Life is not what we expect nor is it always what we want it to be ...

But real life...when we are able to catch glimpses of it... is much better than we can comprehend.

There is hope in the fact that not only did Jesus rise ... but

God sent a messenger to encourage the women, to calm their fears, he was sitting – waiting for them – assuring them that REAL life was better than they could yet comprehend or imagine. (even though Jesus had tried to prepare them!)

Real life is not the life we lead most days. The details, the struggles, even death itself! Real life is beyond what we see and our God is MORE than we can imagine.

We celebrate today because even in the difficulties of life, even when we need a minute and have some fear and anxiety, grief and hardship... When our world is upside down and really messed up, Jesus has Risen and the life we have in Him is just getting started.

We have HOPE because we know that God is at work. This dangling conjunction is not the end of the story...we just don't see the end yet.

God will send His angel, He has sent the Holy Spirit, given us His Word and promise... and He speaks comfort to us as He reveals to us where He is already at work. It may take us a moment, but when we look, we can see the Real life we have in Him...we can catch a glimpse of eternity.

Friends, there is hope for us and hope for the world.

Even if there is fear and silence – if you feel like running away or if you just need a minute. Even when we don't see how or understand the process, God is working it all out. John Lennon said: *Everything will be okay in the end, so if it's not okay it's not the end.* But he got it wrong.

Everything will be *better than we could ever imagine* in the end...not just okay. God's best and highest...

No matter what we are going through now. Real life in the kingdom of God is just beginning... not only is the story not over yet. When the end comes it will be an eternity which is better and more than we can possibly imagine.

So look for new life. Look for angels and messengers. Keep your eyes open because we are living in a hanging conjunction...

Jesus has risen. And He will come again!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Special Music “Let the Bright Seraphim” from *Samson* G.F. Handel  
Dr. Lisa Elliott, soprano

### **We Respond to the Voice of God**

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings    Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken



As we continue to worship, we respond to God's love for us, and the needs of the world, by blessing God's kingdom with our time, talents, energy and resources. Today as an act of offering, take this time to turn your heart to God and reflect on how you might be light and life to our hurting world. Ask God for wisdom and inspiration as we navigate this time of heartbreak, separation, grief, injustice and violence. Today and this week turn to God and let us dedicate ourselves to lean into Christ's peace and offer that to our world. Let us return God's tithes and our offerings to the church via mail or online giving, using text to give or the following link:

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

Offertory "Love Crucified, Arose"

M. Card  
Praise Team

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

Holy God, this day, perhaps more than any other day we are aware of the blessings you have poured out for us. Your very Son was given that he might conquer death at His side and live life as those called to a higher purpose. We are grateful for the time you have given us, the creation you have allowed us to enjoy, the relationships you have created for us and the grace you have blessed us with when we have not been all we are called to be. Out of gratitude we give these gifts, gifts of time, treasure and talent. We commit these gifts to the work of your kingdom. Bless our gifts and use them to heal the sick, redeem the loss, feed the hungry and proclaim goodness and grace to our world. Amen.

The Service of Communion

Communion Liturgy

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

It is our tradition to relive the Last Supper of Jesus Christ. We call this the sacrament of communion. In this moment we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God's Son. We remember in this moment that we are God's children who are adopted into His family and in some mysterious way, God almighty joins us in this act. In remembering we become part of the story and part of the family of God.

All who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome at this table. This table is not fenced, but rather open to all who seek to follow God. This is the family table of God and you are welcome here.

Let us Pray

Gracious God, bless this bread and this cup. May be to us the communion with the body and blood of Christ. Accept the gift of our lives that we may live in you and serve your kingdom. Bless us with the ability to allow your grace to flow through us like the sap of a tree bringing spiritual nourishment and enabling us to bear fruit for your kingdom. In this moment may we be joined together in Christ, may your whole church be one; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

### Words of Institution

On the night of his arrest, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread and after giving thanks to God he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, Take, Eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes. The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God! Come, for all is prepared.

As you share the bread and cup, you might say: “This is the bread of heaven” and “This is the cup of the new covenant.” or “This is Christ’s body broken for you.” This is Christ’s blood shed for you.”

Mediation “Let Us Break Bread Together” arr. W. Held  
Dr. David Dorway

### **We Go with God to Love and Serve**

Closing Hymn “Jesus, Son of God” C. Tomlin/M. Maher/J. Ingrahm  
Praise Team

Benediction Pastor Dana Pope

Postlude “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” arr. R. Hobby  
Brass, Timpani & Dr. David Dorway, organist

## Acknowledgement

Tom Wright - Trumpet I  
Casey Davis - French Horn  
Alan Cates - Bass Trombone

Jorge Machain - Trumpet II  
Hitomi Shoji - Trombone  
Jim Aldridge - Timpani

**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

Dolores Harris (Merrill Gardens )

Judy Aitken, Becky Aldridge, Fred & Mickie Bratschie, Bernard Buswell, Bill Carlston, Leslie Cary, Bob & Joan Clark, Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Pennie & Wayne Everhart, Joice Franklin, Mary Gafford, Charlene Harper, Pam Kodey, Christian and Lara Kolberg, Dorell Koon, Richard Lyle, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles, Don Moore, Maggie O'Donnell, Alice Oiler, Dodi Palmer, Mary Phillips, Aminta & Jorge Santanilla, Bruce Simon, Marty & Barbara Swartout, Mike Walsh, and Dick Wohletz

## 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  
Violet Cross 4/4/2020  
Bill Franklin 5/4/2020  
Greg Holt 5/7/2020  
Carol Mohr 5/25/2020  
Priscilla Taylor 7/4/2020  
Louis Romero 8/8/2020  
Bettye Hodgkins 8/11/2020  
Gary Oiler 8/23/2020  
Donna Gibson 9/14/2020  
Audrey Mitchell 12/1/2020  
Alice Black 12/23/2020  
Phyllis McGuire 12/29/2020  
Carol Moore 12/30/2020  
Andrew Davis 1/1/2021  
Kay Stinson 1/3/2021  
Robert "Bob" Lockhart 1/16/2021  
Laverne Willman 1/11/2021  
Jennifer Moore 2/12/2021

Joe Fontana 2/22/2021  
Greta Hougnon 3/17/2021