

Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church

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Easter Sunday Worship Service

April 4, 2021 • 10am Online

Gathering of God's People

Welcome one and all in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

*We encourage you to prepare a table for Communion beforehand
by placing something to eat and something to drink near you.*

Prelude

We Praise Thee

Denis Bédard

Call to Worship

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

John 20:1-8

Hymn #232

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

*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 heavenly 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 heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

Prayer for Easter

Risen Christ, you come to us in the most harrowing of situations and whisper your call to courage: "Do not be afraid." Though we may tremble, though we may hesitate, we hope, O God, to trust in you. Make us witnesses to love's great power and loyal to all that heals, all that nourishes justice, and all that sustains with beauty and joy. Amen.

We Love to Tell the Story

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 21:1-14

Voluntary

The Prayer Perfect
Courtney Gray

James Whitcomb Riley

*Dear Lord! Kind Lord! Gracious Lord!
I pray Thou wilt look on all I love, Tenderly to-day!
Weed their hearts of weariness; Scatter every care,
Down a wake of angel wings winnowing the air.
Dear Lord! Kind Lord! Gracious Lord!
I pray Thou wilt look on all I love, Tenderly to-day!
Bring unto the sorrowing all release from pain;
let the lips of laughter overflow again;
And with all the needy O divide, I pray,
This vast treasure of content that is mine to-day!
Dear Lord! Kind Lord! Gracious Lord!
I pray Thou wilt look on all I love, Tenderly to-day!*

Scripture

John 21:15-19

Sermon

To Infinity and Beyond

Rev. Mark A. Allio

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Trumpet Voluntary

Gordon Young

Invitation to the Table

For Communion this morning, we invite you to lend Christ your table.

On the first day of Holy Week long ago, people throughout Judea arrived at the dusty gates of Jerusalem, primed with “Hosanna” in their hearts and Jesus asked to borrow a donkey. On the Thursday that followed, Jesus rented or was given John Mark’s mother’s Upper Room to celebrate the Passover with the disciples. On the afternoon of the resurrection, Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus and used the bread of that hospitality to break and bless.

Lend Christ your table, your bread, your cup and your heart, for, as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey, “The Lord has need of it.”

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

One: Gracious God, we raise voices hoarse from shouting alleluias, we sing praises for the wonder of an empty tomb, we give thanks for the gifts of life, of life that breaks the bonds of death. We sing songs of praise for the world you have given us, for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies. As the spring deepens and the earth thaws, as green breaks through the brown of winter, we sing songs of hope for new life springing from dead soil, for the promise held in every seed that is sown.

And so, with all creation, with all the needy and hungry ones, with all those who have enough and plenty, with creatures large and small, with sun and moon and stars, and with the saints of every age, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*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, hosanna in the highest.*

One: As people of faith we remember all those who have gone before. People like Moses and Miriam, leading their people to freedom; like Sarah and Abraham, seeking a new life in a strange land; like Peter and Mary, proclaiming an empty tomb and life beyond the cross. We remember these and many others, named and unnamed, who have embraced Your life, Your hope, and moved into a new age. And we trust that in remembering and retelling their stories, we too can take the leap into New Life.

Deep among all those memories we remember the life of a Special One: Jesus, Child of Mary. Born of a woman, he grew to adulthood among people who struggled daily for life. Baptized by John, he embraced the life to which You called him.

ALL: He taught and preached a vision of a world where all divisions were broken down, where all had what they needed for abundant life, where the Reign of God was as real on earth as in heaven. And though the powerful in his world fought back, he stood strong.

ONE: When offered a chance to take the easy way he overcame his own fear and instead prayed "yet Thy will be done". Even though they put him to death you raised him to life, vindicating his vision and bringing hope and healing to the world.

As inheritors of that hope we join together in praising you, Lord Jesus:

**ALL: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is scattered, in your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament.

All: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every ordinary table where your child shelters in place, that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all as an extraordinary meal. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you.

One: Take what is ordinary
All: And make it extraordinary.

One: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours almighty God. We pray these things in the name of your Son who taught us to pray together 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, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

*You are invited to get something to eat and something to drink and place them in front of you.
After the Words of Institution, you are invited to partake in the bread and the cup.*

Prayer After Communion

All: Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen.

*Hymn #238

Thine is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

*Thine be 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 thy body lay.*

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

*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 her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]*

*No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, thro' thy deathless love:
bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]*

Charge & Benediction

*Hallelujah Chorus

Liturgists: Mark Allio, Kathryn Johnston, Margaret Mielke, Cathay Snyder

Organist: Mark McKeever

Soloist: Courtney Gray

Video Editor: Mark Allio