



very early on the first day of the week, when the sun  
had risen, they went to the tomb...

# Easter Sunday

March 31, 2023

Welcome to worship at Westminster Presbyterian Church!

PRELUDE "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" arr. Thomas Keesecker

WELCOME

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION

"The Power of the Cross" arr. Carol Tornquist

INTROIT "Goodness Is Stronger than Evil" #2219 (*Sing the Faith*)

***Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Amy Lovejoy, adapted from Psalm 118)

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

**God's steadfast love endures forever!**

The Lord is our strength and might;

**today, the Lord has become our salvation!**

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

**This is God's handiwork, and it is marvelous in our eyes!**

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

\*HYMN

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

#123 (*Hymnal*)

***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 God's love; Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!***

PRAYER

(adapted from a prayer written by Christine Jerrett)

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

We repeat our Easter shouts of surprise and joy again and again, mighty God, for news of your victory over powers of death and evil is news so startling, so amazing, so different from the news that bombards us day after day.

**Beyond our comprehension, you surprise us again and again with resurrection life, offering grace and hope and joy. Christ our Savior, You, in your risen power, are shaping all our days, and so we come in gratitude to worship, offering all that we have and all that we are. Praise to You, Creator, Christ, and Spirit. Amen**

RESPONSE

Alleluia Medley

SONG

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

#88 (*Lift Up Your Hearts*)

***In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

***There's a song in ev'ry silence, seeking word and melody;  
There a dawn in ev'ry darkness bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

***In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 6:3-11

ANTHEM

"An Easter Cry of Praise"

Joel Raney

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 16:1-8

SERMON

"Easter Adventure"

Pastor Janet

HYMN

"Christ Is Risen, Shout Hosanna"

#104 (Hymnal)

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

***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.***

***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!***

PRAYER

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**

\*HYMN

"Christ is Risen"

#109 (Hymnal)

***Christ is risen, Christ is living, dry your tears, be unafraid!  
Death and darkness could not hold him, nor the tomb where he was laid.  
Do not look among the dead for One who lives forevermore;  
Tell the world that Christ is risen, make it known he goes before.***

***If the Lord had never risen, we'd have nothing to believe.  
But his promise can be trusted: "You will live because I live."  
As we share the death of Adam, so in Christ we live again.  
Death has lost its sting and terror. Christ the Lord has come to reign.***

***Death has lost its old dominion, Let the world rejoice and shout!  
Christ, the firstborn of the living, gives us life and leads us out.  
Let us thank our God who causes hope to spring up from the ground.  
Christ is risen, Christ is giving life eternal, life profound.***

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

"Glory to God"

*Paul Vasile, used by permission*

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen. World without end, without end, Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.***

POSTLUDE

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

arr. Thomas Keesecker

*Special thanks to our musicians:*

*Chris Garrett, French Horn; Val Glasscock, trumpet; Caleb Kosak, trombone;  
Chris Rohwer, guitar; and Marie Kerstetter, piano  
as well as Jason Zerban and all the members of our choir*

~ Cover art: *Women Arriving at the Tomb* by He Qi ~