

Easter Sunday

April 21, 2019

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS , CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYERRev. Powers and Congregation

EASTER LITANY Pastor and Congregation

PASTOR: We walked the valleys and saw the people crying in need. Jesus reached out to them. He did not criticize or diminish their needs. He touched their lives and they were never the same. The love that flowed through him to them was God's healing love.

PEOPLE: Christ is risen!

PASTOR: We sat at table in the Upper Room as Jesus told of his death and we wanted to discount his words. How could he die? We did not want to believe it. It was easier to proclaim with bravado our faith than to listen to his words.

PEOPLE: Christ is risen!

PASTOR: We waited in the Garden of Sorrows while he prayed and watched in horror as he was betrayed with a kiss. We followed at a distance and denied, with Peter, ever knowing who he was. We were in the crowd that clamored for Barabbas' release and turned our backs as Pilate washed his hands of the crime.

PEOPLE: Christ is risen!

PASTOR: We followed him to the hill and cringed as they nailed him to the Cross. We heard his words of forgiveness and love from the cross and felt the ground tremble as the sky darkened and he gave up his life, into his father's hands.

PEOPLE: Christ is risen!

PASTOR: We ran from the empty tomb today, with the incredible news that He is risen! He was not captured by death, but is risen from the dead, just as he said he would be. We come with the joy in our hearts to this day. As the flowers in our worship area burst with color, so we burst with the absolute joyous news ...

ALL: CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA! AMEN.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP ... "Hallelujah Chorus"Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON ... *Matthew 28:1-10*Reggie Jackson

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold

of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

HYMN ... "Crown Him with Many Crowns"223

CHILDREN'S MESSAGERebecca Blake

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor and Congregation

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the tomb you have given us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from sin and death and to renew our whole creation. Yet we still fall into doubt and fear. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Give us courage and strength to follow your leading, O God, to seek hope, reconciliation and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hear the Good News, in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

MORNING PRAYERPastor

OFFERTORY HYMN... "Low in the Grave He Lay" ... *vs. 1 and 3* 207

OFFERTORY PRAYER Usher

OFFERTORY

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! Choir

"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

He is not here, but has risen."

And if Christ is risen, He cannot be kept entombed in liturgy or tradition,

And we must seek Him always afresh.

And if Christ is risen, He still weaves word-whips to cleanse His Father's house,

And we must invite this judgment.

And if Christ is risen, He cannot be kept from those whose skin or sin excludes them from the celebration,

And we must invite and join them in the feasts.

And if Christ is risen, our world is ever being unmade and made anew.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

ANTHEM ... "Easter Song" Choir

SERMON Pastor

CLOSING HYMN... "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" ... *vs. 1* 217

BENEDICTION Pastor

PASTOR: Christ is with us in this place.

PEOPLE: Alleluia!

PASTOR: Christ goes with us into the world.

PEOPLE : Alleluia!

PASTOR: Go now in peace. Christ is risen!

ALL: Risen indeed! Alleluia!

SHARING LOVE AND PEACE

POSTLUDE

