

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for Easter Sunday**

March 31, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* - Michael Thomas

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Rejoice! Be Glad!* - Todd Kendall

Introit: *Greet the Dawning* Jan Sanborn

Call to Worship:

Look! A sliver of light across the horizon— the miracle of a new day.

See! The stone is rolled away, and the angel calls from within.

Feel! The freedom of our souls and the wonder of the Messiah's gift of new life.

Hear! The hallelujahs as we declare to the world, "He has risen!"

He has risen!

He has risen indeed!

Prayer of the Day:

Hallelujah, loving God! We have been transformed in an instant. Your love resurrected Jesus, defying sin's grasp on us. We claim the power of life over death, delight over pain, and freedom over oppression. Jesus, empower us to go forth in your glory so that we may bring your good news to all. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts create the change we wish to see. Amen.

Hymn #232: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* (please stand)

Call to Confession

Even in the joy of resurrection, we do not forget the anguish of our sins.

We pray together in confession and lament:

Prayer of Confession

Risen One, we confess our silence amid the persecution of others, silence that has often complied with oppression and brought harm. What can we do to eradicate poverty, hunger, and homelessness? Help us to hear your voice above all others, and teach us how to care for our neighbor, feed the hungry, and clothe and care for those in need, for as we do these things unto one another, we do them also unto you. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

In joy of resurrection, we claim the victory of Christ over the power of sin.

God has rolled away the stone to reveal our salvation.

We look inside the tomb, and where Jesus once lay lifeless,

we find the gifts of God's grace and forgiveness.

Go and tell the world!

In Christ we are forgiven.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria Patri #581: *Glory Be to the Father* *(please stand)*

Anthem: *Rise to Sing the Light is Breaking* Eric Nelson

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers. God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of the Good News. *(brief silence)*

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world.

God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ our resurrected and living Lord, who taught us to pray:

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 #231: *Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, Living Word, as you revealed yourself to Mary that Easter morning, so reveal yourself to us. By the power of your Spirit, give each of us faith, that hearing your Word we, too, may proclaim, "I have seen the Lord!" Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 25:6 – 9

Epistle Lesson: I Corinthians 15:1 – 11

Gospel Lesson: John 20:1-18

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Transcendent Love* Jonathan Kimball

Affirmation of Faith 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 22:13 (please stand)

This is the Good News we have received, in which we stand and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, that he appeared to the women, to Cephas and then to the twelve. Then he appeared to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end; He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please be seated)

Offertory Hymn #242: *Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded* vs. 2

Prayer of Dedication:

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel, through Christ Jesus, our risen Savior and wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Sending Hymn #246: *Christ is Alive!* (stand)

Benediction: (remain standing)

The God of all, who raised Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.
He is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Praise Him With Trumpets!* - Richard Blake

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