

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *Meditation in C* - John S. Dixon

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *The Love of God* - Jason W. Krug

Introit: *Christ is Alive* v. 5

Call to Worship:

We live in the radiance of your glory.

Our worship comes from the gladness you have put in our hearts.

We give you thanks for the peace of your salvation.

Oh, hear the joy of our praise for your grace and mercy.

Prayer of the Day:

Blessed Savior, you keep showing up for us in unexpected places. When we face uncertainty, you are there. When we worry about our tomorrows, you are there. And even in the doubt-filled lonely hours, you are there. Hear our prayer of thanks for your constant love, which convinces us to sing aloud, “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.” Amen.

Hymn #839: *Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!* (please stand)

Call to Confession

With contrite hearts, we humbly ask Jesus to hear our prayer of confession, praying together:

Prayer of Confession

Saving God, we are in awe of the power of resurrection, and we give you glory with our hallelujahs, but we carry lingering doubts about your saving power in our lives. We ask why you do not answer our prayers quickly enough. We demand signs to prove the reality of your promises. Sometimes we find ourselves wondering when you will show up to ease our pain. We pray now that you will help us in our impatience and unbelief. Forgive us and free us to recognize your presence. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

The promise of Christ is sure, even in our moments of doubt. He shows up and says, “Peace be with you.” Hold on to this peace, for in it is the loving forgiveness of our doubts. May the blessing pour from our lips when we

remember this peace, and may we exclaim, “My Lord and my God!”

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)

Hymn of the Day #246: *Christ is Alive!* v. 1 – 4 (stand)

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*)

O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life.

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 ##630: *Fairest Lord Jesus* (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

First Lesson: Acts 3:12 - 19

Epistle Lesson: I John 3:1 – 7

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:36b - 48

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *On Being an "I" Witness* Bob Morrison

Affirmation of Faith An Easter Affirmation of Faith Rev. Brian Miller (*stand*)

We believe in God the Father, who created the world, was faithful when we were not, and who continuously seeks to redeem the world.

We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, who humbled himself by becoming human and moving into our neighborhood; was sent by the Father to give us life; embodied and taught the righteous love of God; and who, though he knew no sin, became sin and was put to death on a cross.

We believe that three days later, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the power of God; was seen in bodily form by his disciples.

We believe that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus gives us victory over any form of sin and brokenness and allows us to know the full love of God for the world.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who actively works in our lives, giving us grace to be like Jesus, and sends us to show God's love for the world.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please be seated)

Offertory Hymn #697: *Take My Life* vs. 1 and 4

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 #747: *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* (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: *Praises Unending* - Jason W. Krug

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