

WORSHIPPING GOD

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday – the Celebration of the Resurrection

*Stand if you are able; we invite you to sing softly with hymns, or hum; and, to read the words designated for the “People” or “All” as they appear on the screen during worship.

Chiming of the Hour.....Kim Miller
*Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God,
alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.*

Lighting the Candles.....Kim Miller
*As we enter the sanctuary, the Christ Candle is burning.
We now light the two candles on the Communion Table,
reminding us that Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world;” and
reminding us that Jesus said to his disciples, “You are the light of the world.”*

Preparing for Worship.....Kim Miller
*As we turn away from the tomb, we encounter the risen Jesus.
As we look in wonder, Jesus calls us by name.
Life, not death, is the deepest truth—God’s word for all creation.*

Prelude.....Jesus Christ is Risen Today.....Robert Williams
Joan John, Organ

Welcome.....Dan Koger

Passing the Peace.....Dan Koger
*Turn to those around you and share these words:
May the peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!*

Choral Call to Worship..... “He is Risen!”

Call to Worship.....Laura Flick
This day is like every other day.
Alarm clocks beeped. Covers were removed. Coffee was brewed. Weary bodies came to life.
And yet this day, is like no other day—
For the sun rose, and we knew it was a miracle. The tomb was empty, and they knew it was love.
So again and again we say—
The longest night is over. Death has lost its sting. Jesus is among us. Alleluia! Amen.

*Hymn..... “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
All creation, join to say Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O Death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

Prayer.....Ariel Koger

God of hope, in the midst of death, you call forth life. When all hope seemed gone, you raised Jesus from the grave. We come before you today, longing for your life-giving presence. God of new life, raise us up with all your people. Lift us from the tombs of our despair and doubt, that we may rejoice in your power over death. God of joy, fill our hearts with alleluias we sing your praises. Glory to God. Amen!

Psalm Lesson from Psalm 118.....Ariel Koger

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever. Let Israel say it: "God's faithful love lasts forever!"

The Lord was my strength and protection; he was my saving help! The sounds of joyful songs and deliverance are heard in the tents of the righteous: "The Lord's strong hand is victorious!"

I won't die—no, I will live and declare what the Lord has done. Open the gates of righteousness for me so I can come in and give thanks to the Lord!

This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem..... "Jesus Lives"

Gospel Lesson from Mark 16.....Shelly Ullom

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. Very early on the first

day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?"

When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled.

But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him.

Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn..... "Alleulia, Alleulia! Hearts to Heaven"

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled –
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient powers of evil in confusion and retreat;
Once he died, and once was buried; now he lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, who we worship and adore.

MeditationAgain & Again, the Sun Rises".....Dan Koger

Call to Confession.....Dan Koger

Friends, had we been there that first Easter morning, it is likely that many of us would have been with the disciples – hiding out in fear, locked behind doors, alone with our thoughts in the upper room.

I wish I could say that I would have gone with the women, that I would have been brave and determined. I wish I could say that I would have held onto my faith, But the truth is, we'll never know.

What I do know is that Jesus came back for all of us. Not the few who had maintained faith or the few who stayed with him until the end. He came back for the broken and the afraid, for the cowardly and the greedy, for the women in the garden, and for the disciples hiding in the upper room. He came back for those who betrayed him and those who worshiped him.

He came back for you and for me. So join me in the prayer of confession, Knowing that no matter where we are on the continuum of faith, Jesus lived, loved, and returned for us. Let us pray. . .

Prayer of Confession and Words of Thanksgiving.....Kim Miller

Beloved Community, before God and before you, I confess: I have seen the sun rise and withheld my praise. I have seen my neighbor suffer and withheld my aid. I have seen love

extended and chosen to walk away. I have seen divisions deepen and managed to remain unfazed.

We hear you. We see you. You are forgiven. God’s love is like the sun. No matter how lost we are in the night, Day after day, the light will find you. Rest easy. You are held in God’s warmth.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Now we must pray. Beloved friend, before God and before each other, we confess: We have seen the sun rise and withheld our praise. We have seen our neighbors suffer and have withheld our aid. We have seen love extended and chosen to walk away. We have seen divisions deepen and managed to remain unfazed.

I hear you. I see you. You are forgiven. God’s love is like the sun. No matter how lost we are in the night, Day after day, the light will find you. Rest easy. You are held in God’s warmth.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup.....Dan Koger

The Bread of Life...the Cup of Love

Affirming Our Faith.....Kim Miller

We know the fear of the upper room. We know the feeling of hard days and long nights. We know the grief of the tomb, and the particular ache of saying goodbye.

We know the pain of Good Friday, and we know the darkness before dawn. And still, and still, We believe. We believe that again and again, The sun will rise.

Again and again, God will draw near.

Again and again, the tomb will be empty. Again and again, love will win. Again and again, And again and again, We will be loved.

The journey will not be perfect. We will need to rise before dawn. We will need angels along the way. But again and again,

The sun will rise. We believe.

And because we believe, let us pray as our Lord taught us:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us. 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 Alive”

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love drowned in death will never die.

Christ is alive and comes to bring

Good news to this and every age;
Till earth an sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

*A Charge & Benediction.....Dan Koger

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm— Again and again and again.
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. Amen.

*Congregational Response..... "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthems drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Postlude..... Crown Him with Many Crowns.....George J. Elvey
Joan John, Organ