

Easter Sunrise Service

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render.”

—John of Damascus

Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn.
⁹I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing
praises to you among the nations. ¹⁰For your steadfast love is as
high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds.
¹¹Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory be over
all the earth.

Psalm 57:8-11 (NRSV)

OPENING HYMN

“Worship Christ the Risen King”

Rise, O Church, and lift your voices,
Christ has conquered death and hell.
Sing as all the earth rejoices;
Resurrection anthems swell.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the Risen King!

See the tomb where death had laid Him,
Empty now, its mouth declares;
"Death and I could not contain Him,
For the throne of life He shares."
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the Risen King!

Doubt may lift its head to murmur,
Scoffers mock and sinners jeer;
But the truth proclaims a wonder
Thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.
He is risen, He is risen,
Now receive the Risen King!

We acclaim Your life, O Jesus,
Now we sing Your victory;
Sin or hell may seek to seize us
But Your conquest keeps us free.
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph,
Worship Christ, the Risen King!

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826). Music: John B. Bykes (1823-1876).



CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Christ is Risen!

People: *He is risen indeed!*

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Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

ALL: *He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

FIRST READING

Reader 1: Lord God, early in the morning, when the world was young, you spoke life into being; you gave birth to all that we know—sky and seas; plants and trees; bodies of light in the sky; creatures of the land, water and air; man and woman.

Reader 2: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

from Genesis 1:1-4, 26a, 27-28, 31

SECOND HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, The King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things So wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, Yes, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen How all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy Here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, Come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen Sound from His people again:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Let the Amen Sound from His people again:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Words: Based on Psalm 103, Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. By Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
alt. 1990. Music: LOBE DEN HERREN.

SECOND READING

Reader: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. ¹⁰"And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, ¹²then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Deuteronomy 6:4-12

CONFESSION OF SIN

ALL: *Almighty and most merciful Father;
We have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
And we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
And there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent;
According to your promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake;
That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
To the glory of your holy Name. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:13, 14, 20, 22 (NRSV)

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of His Holy Spirit.

ALL: *Amen.*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Hallelujah, What a Savior!”

Man of Sorrows!” what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood
Sealed my pardon with His blood:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Guilty, vile and helpless we
Spotless Lamb of God was He
Full atonement! Can it be?
Hallelujah, what a Savior

Chorus:

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, what a Savior!

(x2)

Lifted up was he to die,
“It is finished!” was His cry
Now in heav’n exalted high
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
(Chorus)

When He comes, our glorious King,
All his ransomed home to bring
Then anew this song we’ll sing
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
(Chorus)

Words and Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1875, alt. Refrain: Shelly Moore, 2008.

THIRD READING

Reader: And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ²saying, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. ³For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. ⁴Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.' ⁵The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head ⁶at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. ⁷When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. ⁸Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. ⁹But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!" ¹⁰And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it spat Jonah out upon the dry land.

Jonah 1:17-2:10

FOURTH READING

Reader: Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus wept.

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.
³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."
⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

John 11:32-35, 38-44

 **BENEDICTION**

FIFTH READING

Reader 1: Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid.

Reader 2: But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." ⁸And they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

Luke 23:50–24:9

CLOSING HYMN

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne:
Hark! How the heavenly anthems drown 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.

Crown Him the Lord of peace: Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease And all be prayer and praise!
His reign shall know no end, And round his pierced feet,
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of love! Behold His hands and side—
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874 (Rev. 19:12).

Music: George J. Elvey, 1868.

BENEDICTION

Reader: Early in the morning, the body of believers gather together, one in faith and hope, one in purpose: To believe in and worship you, the one Lord, Jesus Christ, to live forgiven and thankful lives, and to celebrate the victory over death and the promise of eternal life. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

from 1 Corinthians 15:57

ALL: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

1 Peter 1:3

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

