

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

April 9, 2023

Pre-Service Music: *Voluntary in D Major* - John Stanley

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Fugue in C Major* - George Frideric Handel

Introit: *Christ is Alive* Brian Wren and Lori True

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God has answered us!

God has come to earth to become our salvation!

This is the day the Lord has made:

let us rejoice and be glad! Alleluia

Prayer of the Day

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as our people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn #232: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* v. 1, 2, 4 (please stand)

Call to Confession

This is a day of celebration!

**Nothing should prevent us from lifting our voices in praise to God.
We must not hide the things we have done or failed to do,
the things that do not imitate the perfect love of Christ.**

We must not let them fester and stifle our joy.

Therefore, let us bring them before God in confession.

Prayer of Confession

Resurrected Christ, there is nothing we can do to deserve the grace you give us. There is no way we can earn your love, there is no way we can be worthy of your forgiveness. And yet you shower these mercies on us. You, who have taken away the sting of death, meet us where we are, in our doubt and fear, in our regrets and shame, in our delight and awe. Meet us here in this place, and call us once again to trust in you.

Declaration of Pardon

God says to us, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Christ says to us, Do not be afraid.

We need not fear;

we are forgiven, we are loved, we are redeemed! Alleluia!

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Glory Be to the Father #581:

(please stand)

Anthem:

Easter Rejoicing

James Biery

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. Risen Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

United in the hope and joy of resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. You call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for Dietrich Bonhoeffer and all theologians, preachers, and teachers who proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy of resurrection in all we say and do.

Risen Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ our risen 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 #241:

Woman, Weeping in the Garden

(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

Epistle Lesson: Acts 10:40 - 43

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:13 – 35, 41 – 43

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

The Talk of the Town

Rev. Gary Stratman

Affirmation of Faith 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 22:13

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 stand)

Offering #709:

God, We Honor You (with Alleluia's)

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 #238:

Thine is the Glory

(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: *Fanfare and Trumpeting* - David Paxton

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Jeff Sandquist and Lorie Francis.
Worship led by Britt Whitaker and sermon provided by Gary Stratman.*

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