



First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

"Hope" is the thing with feathers

That perches in the soul

And sings the tune without the words

And never stops at all.

Emily Dickinson

PRELUDE

Rhosymedre (Lovely)

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1959)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come again to celebrate resurrection. God gives us new birth into a living hope.

People: **Death has no power over us. Christ goes before us in the new life God offers.**

Leader: Blessed be the God of our Savior Jesus Christ! Our faith, tested by fire, is renewed.

People: **Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice. God shows us the path of life.**

HYMN OF PRAISE, No. 634

To God Be the Glory

Tune: TO GOD BE THE GLORY

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the peo - ple re - joice!

O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,

and give him the glo - ry: great things he has done!

CALL to CONFESSION

PRAYER of CONFESSION (UNISON)

Deliver us, O God, from the grip of our fears. It is hard and costly to follow Jesus. We do not want to risk our lives. We do not want to expose our advantages. And there are many of your people we find it difficult to love. God, there are places—both physical and spiritual—that we do not want to go. We find it hard to speak openly about our faith. Yet we are drawn to Jesus and want to be his disciples. Help us develop the self-discipline we need to do this, that we may not grow discouraged or lose heart.

(time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, Christ welcomes us not because we are worthy but because we are valued and forgiven. God, who created us, knows our potential. And God is calling us to respond in trust, commitment, and faithfulness. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE

The Strife is O'er

Tune: VICTORY

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The strife is o'er, the battle done
the victory of life is won
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 16:7-11

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more

precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

People Get Ready

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

OFFERING*

“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” from *Messiah* G.F. Handel (1685–1759)

DOXOLOGY

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God all crea - tures here be -
low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly
host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Thank you, generous God, for the material blessings that you have given us. We give you back some of these gifts with grateful hearts, knowing that you will use them to bless your world.
In Christ's name.

All: Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - jice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing Healey Willan (1880–1968)

*To give online or fulfill your pledge: FirstChurchLF.org/give

*To give to our COVID-19 Fund: FirstChurchLF.org/give/covid-fund-donations

*For information on our Mission Food Depot: FirstChurchLF.org/mission-food-depot

Pastor Kristie's day off is on Thursday. Pastor Clint's day Off is on Friday.