



First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

April 11, 2021

Eastertide

PRELUDE

Lift High the Cross

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski, 1991

THE WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Today is a new day!

People: We come with the past behind us, and the future open. We come to celebrate the new life Christ brings.

Leader: For we walk by faith and not by sight.

People: And our faith is this: Christ is Risen indeed!

***HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 235 O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing**

TUNE: O FILII ET FILIAE

(Please refrain from singing aloud in the sanctuary.)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*O Sons and daughters, let us sing
with heavenly hosts to Christ our King;
today the grave has lost its sting!*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*That Easter morn, at break of day,
the faithful women went their way
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Please stand if you are able

*That night the apostles met in fear;
among them came their Lord most dear,
and said, "My peace be with you here."
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*On this most holy day of days,
to God your hearts and voices raise,
in laud and jubilee and praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Last Sunday was Easter, a day on which the only fitting call to worship was announcement of the Event—the resurrection, the greatest act of life-saving imaginable. Through it God let us laugh at our death sentence by punctuating it with a living exclamation mark. On this day and in days to come may we remember that there are times when God restates the joyful resurrection proclamation.

Abilities faded and forgotten are channeled toward new creativity—that's resurrection.

Friendships once killed by frosty misunderstanding bloom again in warm reconciliation—that's resurrection.

Hopes glimmering and gone are rekindled by expressions of caring—that's resurrection.

Faith, dulled by lack of exercise, dances again to God's everyday rhythms—that's resurrection.

We worship the God whose resurrecting power lives on as does the Christ we serve.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mighty God: by your power is Christ raised from death to rule this world with love. We confess that we have not believed in him, but fall into doubt and fear. Gladness has no home in our hearts, and gratitude is slight. Forgive our dread of dying, our hopelessness, and set us free for joy in the victory of Jesus Christ, who was dead but lives, and will put down every power to hurt or destroy, when your promised kingdom comes. Amen.

* Please stand if you are able

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Our confession is an acknowledgment of our humanness, our need for God's grace. God has promised that we can be forgiven for our weaknesses, our insensitivities, our cynicism and our lack of faith. We accept this assurance with humility and with the hope that it will lead us toward resurrection. Believe the good news:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***SUNG RESPONSE**

The Strife is O'er

TUNE: VICTORY

(Please refrain from singing aloud in the sanctuary.)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done,

the victory of life is won;

the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the

* Please stand if you are able

mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to you, O Christ

SERMON

“On Seeing and Believing”

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING

Day by Day

Swedish melody
arr. Anna Laura Page, 2003

* Please stand if you are able

***DOXOLOGY**

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Wonderful, amazing God, we thank you that you have raised Jesus Christ from the dead, bringing us the promise of new life. With the dawning of this new day, may we awake to new opportunities to love and serve you and witness to Christ whom you have raised. Use us, and our gifts, to your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

***HYMN OF SENDING, NO. 817**

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

TUNE: DUNLAP'S CREEK

(Please refrain from singing aloud in the sanctuary.)

We walk by faith and not by sight;

with gracious words draw near,

O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:

"My peace be with you here."

We may not touch your hands and side,

nor follow where you trod;

but in your promise we rejoice

and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;

and may our faith abound

to call on you when you are near

and seek where you are found.

And when our life of faith is done,

in realms of clearer light

may we behold you as you are,

with full and endless sight.

* Please stand if you are able

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

arr. Diane Bish, 1993

Chancel Flowers

In loving memory of my parents, Harwood and Lucile Orbison by Nancy Orbison.

* Please stand if you are able

NOTES:

*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 Clint's day off is on Monday. Pastor Kristie's day off is on Friday.

Worship Participants

Rev. Clinton Roberts

Rev. Kristie Finley

Sarah Seccombe, Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Barry Wenger, Director of Bell Choirs and Organist

Dr. Tom Tropp, Director of Music and Arts

Susan Noble, Director of Children's Music

Lakeminster Ringers

AV Support: Aaron Helms, Will & Peter Elliot



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