Westminster
Presbyterian Church

APRIL 4, 2021
EASTER SUNDAY

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Gathering Words **Linda and Greg Barbu**

God meets us at the sites of life's bleakest encounters.
God captures our attention from the grips of despair.

Hope catches us by surprise, in miracles ordinary and extravagant.
In the way something holy lingers, even after death.

In the people's persistence toward liberation of life.
In companionship through sorrow, no one left alone.

Faithfully, love rises to reassure us: Christ lives!
God is alive. God is with us. We rejoice!

Opening Prayer **Linda and Greg Barbu**

Holy Mystery,
your presence is a wonder.
Rolling open the tombs within and around us,
you declare life where we thought there was only death.
May your Spirit move among us,
awakening us to the possibilities that persist.
Possibilities for joy, for new life, and for the mending of the world.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 246 Christ is Alive TRURO

Prayer of Illumination **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so
that they might go and anoint him. [2]And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they
went to the tomb. [3]They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance
to the tomb?" [4]When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled
back. [5]As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and
they were alarmed. [6]But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was
crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. [7]But go, tell his disciples
and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." [8]So they went out
and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they
were afraid.

Sermon Writing the Rest of the Story **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 250 Gift of Promise PROMISE

Communion

Invitation **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Will we open ourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ
that is always and already available here at this table?

Will we open ourselves once again to the call of Jesus Christ?
Will we open ourselves to the transformation that is possible in Christ?

As we prepare to attend this feast where God invites each of us,
we especially pray for those who have no earthly tables, or no place at a table, and so little daily bread.
We confess this day that we have been slow to join the dance
that brings life to all, brings love to all, brings sustenance to all.
In silence, let us lift up our prayers of confession...

Silent Confession

Hear this good news!

God has loved you from the very beginning.
The invitation of Christ is never-ending
because resurrection can happen at any moment.
The Holy Spirit is transforming you even now!
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen!

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy Living One,
You transformed a whole lot of nothing into this amazing creation.
You breathed life all around and called it good.
You invited us to the wonder of it all
and when we could not face you, you turned us around.
You keep bringing us around and around, time and again,
offering the chance to join the freedom-dance.

Jesus,
the Anointed One, liberator, our friend and dance partner
sat at tables with those who had no place
and offered fulfilling food for bodies and souls.
Jesus, you willingly gave up privilege and stood with the broken and the ostracized.
You even gave your life to break the power of death-dealing forces within our world,
trusting in the divine power that offers new life against all odds.

Pour out your Spirit upon us now!
Pour out your transforming presence

on the gifts of this body
and the gifts of this bread and fruit of the vine.
May they be for us your life and love,
uniting us as one body—Christ's body—
for the sake of loving the world.

We pray in the name of the One who is to come, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 226 There in God's Garden SHADES MOUNTAIN

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Easter Flowers have been given by:

Josie and Rich Drushal, in memory of J Garber and Dorothy W Drushal

Cheryl and Bill Weiss, in memory of their parents

Linda Houston, in memory of Dan and Eric Houston

Catherine and Tom Graves, in honor of Judy Van Wie

Linda and Greg Barbu, in honor of family and friends

Linda and Greg Barbu, in memory of family and friends

Linda Saif, in memory of her parents and grandparents

*Note: The Gathering Words and Opening Prayer were adapted from *Enfleshed: Liturgy That Matters.* The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving was adapted from Marcia McFee.