

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

First Sunday After Easter

Online Traditional Service

April 19, 2020



The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Air Gracieux"

Gordon Young

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The Lord is always before me

People: He is at my right hand, therefore my heart is glad

Leader: He was not abandoned to Hades

People: Nor did his flesh experience corruption

Leader: This Jesus, God raised up

All: And of that all of us are witnesses. Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN

#464

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3 Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Risen Lord, we sing songs of Alleluia and rejoice because you conquered the grave. But, do we really understand what actually happened so many years ago? Are our hearts opened enough to truly absorb this amazing gift from you? At times, yes, but at other times, we still have the doubt of Thomas, the betrayal of Judas, the abandonment of Peter. Where we truthful in our secret heart, we too allow our doubts to be bigger than our faith. There are times when we are filled with your presence and know who we are and to whom we belong, Yet other times we give in to embracing our fears, our ego, and being in control, that we find ourselves determined to think we know better, are smarter, and soon find ourselves in the darkness. Forgive us Lord. Open our eyes as you opened the eyes of your disciples, and let us live in Jesus' name. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 2:14.22-32

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light setting Gregory Hamilton
David Macbeth, piano

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 20:19-31

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

“My Lord and My God!”

WE RESPOND

HYMN

#118

The Day of Resurrection!

LANCASHIRE

1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From this world unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil,
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light;
And listening to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own “All hail!” and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory "Consolation", Op. 30, No. 3

Felix Mendelssohn

*Response - #592

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN

#108

Christ is Alive!

Verses 1, 2, 3, & 5

TRURO

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.

3 Not throned afar, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life,
Our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Song 22"

C. V. Stanford