

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

MARCH 31, 2024

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP*

adapted from 1 Corinthians 15.55-56

Minister: Christ has risen from the dead and become the first fruits of those who slept. Where, O death, is your sting? Where, O grave, is your victory?

All: **The Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION*

HYMN*

Christ the Lord is Risen Today | No. 277

EASTER HYMN

Stanzas 1, 3, and 4

“Christ the Lord is ris’n today,” Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing ye heav’ns, and earth, reply. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Foll’wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

from the Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 37-38

Minister: What benefits do believers receive from Christ when they die?

All: When believers die, their souls are made perfectly holy and immediately pass into glory. Their bodies, which are still united to Christ, rest in the grave until the resurrection.

Minister: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

All: At the resurrection, believers, raised in glory, will be publicly recognized and declared not guilty on the day of judgment and will be made completely happy in the full enjoyment of God forever.

SONG OF PRAISE

The Risen Christ (O Breath of God)

RISEN CHRIST

O breath of God, come fill this place.
Revive our hearts to know Your grace,
And from our slumber make us rise
That we may know the Risen Christ.

O word of God, so clear and true,
Renew our minds to trust in You,
And give to us the bread of life
That we may know the Risen Christ.

O love of God, so unrestrained,
Refresh our souls in Jesus' name.
Let us reflect Your sacrifice
That we may know the Risen Christ.

May God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit make us one.
In holiness, let us unite
That we may know the Risen Christ.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: Let us confess our sins before our righteous and holy God.

All: Heavenly Father, in raising Jesus from the grave, You shattered the power of sin and death. Yet, we confess that we still become ensnared by doubt and fear, remaining bound by the ways that lead to death. We confess to squandering Your gifts, deviating from Your paths, and overlooking Your love, all the while failing to see our neighbor's needs, due to being overly absorbed in our own concerns. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust in the transformative power of the Spirit, that our lives may be reshaped, and our hearts renewed, enabling us to embrace the joy of the abundant life granted through Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ephesians 2:8-9

Hear the promises of God to those who truly repent of their sins and trust in Christ: For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Children's Time

After the intercessory prayer, children in kindergarten through 3rd grade and their teachers may exit the sanctuary through the north doors of the sanctuary. Teachers will return with the children after the sermon. Parents may meet them by the north entrance, or children may join their parents at their seats.

SCRIPTURE READING*

1 Corinthians 1.1-19, 54-58

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you -- unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

SCRIPTURE READING* (CONT.)

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

SERMON

Not in Vain

Rev. David Rea

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed

Getty

How can it be, the One who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice,
To conquer every sting of death?
Sing, sing “Hallelujah!”

HYMN OF RESPONSE* (CONT.)

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their friend and king:
Christ, Christ, He is risen!

Refrain:

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Oh, sing "Hallelujah!"

Join the chorus and all the redeemed:

"Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!"

Where doubt and darkness once had been,
They saw Him and their hearts believed.
But blessed are those who have not seen,
Yet, sing "Hallelujah!"

Once bound by fear now bold in faith,
They preached the truth and pow'r of grace.
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life, life everlasting!

Refrain

The pow'r that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to pow'r'ly save;
He frees our hearts to live His grace -
Go, tell of His goodness.

Refrain

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S TABLE

All those who trust in Christ alone for their salvation, are baptized, and belong to a Bible believing church are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper together, feeding on the grace of God by faith. If you have not put your trust in Christ, please allow the elements to pass you by and take this opportunity to meditate on the meaning of the Gospel.

A word to parents: Baptized children are invited to the table after they have made a profession of faith and been received as communing members by the Session of the church to which their parents belong.

Please hold the bread, and we will partake together. Please drink the cup as you receive it.

The outer ring is grape juice and the inner rings are wine.

During the bread

The King in All His Beauty

Papa, Boswell

O lift your eyes to heaven, see the Holy One eternal.
Behold the Lord of majesty, exalted in His temple.
As symphonies of angels' praise now strain to sound His glory.
Come worship, fall before His grace, the King in all His beauty.

*Refrain: How worthy, how worthy,
How worthy, the King in all His beauty.*

Now see the King who wears a crown,
One made of shame and splinters.
The sacrifice for ruined man, the substitute for sinners.
As earth is stained with royal blood, and quakes with love and fury.
He breathes His last and bows His head, the King in all His beauty.

Refrain

Now see the Savior lifted up, the Lamb who reigns in splendor.
The hope of every tribe and tongue, His kingdom is forever.
Bring praise and honor to His courts. Bring wisdom, power, blessing.
For endless ages we'll adore the King in all His beauty.

Refrain

During the cup

Instrumental

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN*

Thine Be the Glory | No. 274

MACCABAEUS

Stanzas 1-3

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes, where thy body lay.

CLOSING HYMN* (CONT.)

*Refrain: Thine be the glory, risen conqu'ring Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb,
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

Refrain

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life,
Life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love:
Bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above.

Refrain

BENEDICTION*

Minister: May the blessing of God Almighty, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit,
be with you all now and forever.