

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Philippians 4)*

One: "Rejoice in the Lord always."

All: "Again I will say: Rejoice!"

One: The Lord is good to us and calls to us, that we might be embraced in arms of love.

All: **The God of resurrection is the God of our lives.**

One: Let us serve the Lord with gladness.

All: **Let us worship the Lord in joy.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" GtG 248

1. **Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!**
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.
2. **Christ is risen! Raise your spirits**
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.

(continued...)

**3. Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna, everyone!**

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Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward
Hodges, 1842, alt.
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Dear God, we celebrate your victory
in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Yet we know that your struggle with sin and evil
is not over, even in us.
You show us the way, but we do not follow.
You have demonstrated yourself trustworthy,
but we still want proof and hedge our bets.
You call us to love, but we love so little.
Have mercy upon us, O God.
Forgive us for not trusting you.
Forgive us for resisting your guidance and your call.
Forgive us for not being very forgiving.
Fill us with your Spirit that we might know the fullness of your life.
Touch us by your love;
and by the power of Christ's resurrection,
raise us up to serve others
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from I John 3)*

One: "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children
of God; and that is what we are."
Children of God, we are claimed by God,
forgiven of our sins,
and set free for love.

(continued...)

Hear that good news.
Embrace that good news.
Live that good news.
All: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-23

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Arising to the Challenge” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” GtG 286

1. **Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**
2. **Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.**
3. **Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**
4. **Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

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Music: TRENTHAM, Robert Jackson, 1888
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**God the Holy Spirit
fulfills the work of reconciliation in human life.
The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church
as the community in which people
are reconciled to God and to one another.
The Spirit enables people to receive forgiveness
as they forgive one another
and to enjoy the peace of God
as they make peace among themselves.
In spite of their sin,
the Spirit gives people power
to become representatives of Jesus Christ
and his gospel of reconciliation to all.**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Pour out your blessing, O Lord...
All: ...send us your **Spirit of peace.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)

**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.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Holy God, we give you thanks and praise
for the bounty of your grace:
for light and life and love,
and – above all –
the presence of the living Lord among us.
By your Spirit who breathes within us,
strengthen our faith,
use our gifts,
and work in our lives
to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” StF 2241

- 1. The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.**
- 2. We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.**
- 3. We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.**
- 4. Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...

All: ...Amen.

One: For Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

POSTLUDE

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