

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Psalm 118:1-2, 19-24 NKJV)*

One: Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let Israel no say, "His mercy endures forever."

All: Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, and I will praise the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord, through which the righteous shall enter. I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation.

One: The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

All: This was the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

One: Glory to you, O God; on this day You won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life. Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation You overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life. Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: You lead us into the truth. Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever.

All: AMEN!

***OPENING HYMN “Up from the Grave He Arose”**

- 1. Low in the grave He lay,
Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day,
Jesus my Lord!**

Refrain

**Up from the grave He arose, (*he arose*)
With a mighty triumph o’er His foes; (*o’er his foes*)
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! (*he arose*)
He arose! (*he arose*)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

- 2. Vainly they watch His bed,
Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead,
Jesus my Lord!**

Refrain

- 3. Death cannot keep its prey,
Jesus my Savior;
He tore the bars away,
Jesus my Lord!**

Refrain

(CHRIST AROSE with Refrain)

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***RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR RESURRECTION SUNDAY**

- One:** O Christ, in Your Resurrection,
the Heavens and the Earth rejoice. Alleluia!
By Your Resurrection, You broke open the gates of hell,
and destroyed sin and death.
- All: Keep us victorious over sin.**

(...continued)

One: By Your Resurrection, You raised the dead,
and brought us from death to life.

All: Guide us in the way of Eternal Life.

One: By Your Resurrection, You confounded Your guards and executioners, and filled the
disciples with joy.

All: Give us joy in Your service.

One: By Your Resurrection, You proclaimed Good News to the women and apostles, and
brought Salvation to the whole world.

All: Direct our lives as Your new creation.

One: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for He is alive and has
become the Lord of Life. From the waters of death, You raise us with Him and renew
Your gift of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with
Christ, and help us to grow as Your people toward the fullness of Eternal Life with
You, through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave,
You shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak,
and abuse the earth you made.
Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust Your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant given
in Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord.**

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He Himself bore our sins in His Body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept Your Word. Silence in us any voice but Your own, that, hearing, we may also obey Your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:1-6 (NKJV)

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10 (NKJV)

PRAYER FOR SERMON:

One: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer (Psalm 19:14, NKJV)."

SERMON "Resurrection: What Does it Mean to Us" by Rev. Paula Cooper

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(The Nicene Creed)*

**We believe in one God,
The Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

(...continued)

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven.
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***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.**

(continued...)

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.**

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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SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

One: And so, we come to this table to remember, and to offer ourselves to God,
unworthy as we are: to offer ourselves to God in our attempts to be obedient and
our yearning to be faithful.

All: And Christ offers Himself to us in the bread and cup of this Sacrament.

One: With this Sacrament, we remember Jesus's sacrifice on our behalf, and His
obedience unto death.

**All: In this Sacrament, we receive the promise of renewal and the forgiveness of
our faithlessness, all through the faithfulness of God.**

One: For this is the gracious feast of God, prepared for the people of God.

**All: The Sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ in remembrance of His last supper
with His disciples.**

(continued...)

One: The invitation is to all who would heed His call to follow and obey.

All: The invitation is to all who yearn to know and to love God.

Unison: The invitation is to you and to me.

One: So let us lift up our hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray.

Unison: We thank you, O God, for Your Grace given to us in Your Son, Jesus Christ. By His death our sins are forgiven. Through His Resurrection we are offered new life. In His Ministry, we are guided in the way we should go. Strengthen us through the offering of this Sacrament, that we might be nurtured and filled for the living of our days. Amen.

One: The Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said,

All: "This is My body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

One: In the same way, He took the cup also, after supper, saying,

All: "This cup is the New Covenant in My Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

----- Distribution of the Elements -----

*(You will be invited by the ushers to come forward to receive Communion.
Those who choose not to come forward will be served at their seats.)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)

**Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your Will be done,
on earth as it is 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

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. (Malachi 3:10 NKJV)"

Reflection

**Prayer of Dedication*

All: Lord, use these offerings and us for the building up of Your Kingdom on Earth.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Every Morning is Easter Morning"

Refrain

**Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!
Ev'ry day's resurrection day,
the past is over and gone!**

- 1. Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance!
Hello, Lord, Hello. Sun!
I am one of the Easter People!
My new life has begun!**

Refrain

2. **Daily news is so bad it seems
The Good News seldom gets heard.
Get it straight, from the Easter People!
God's in charge, spread the word!**

Refrain

**Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!
Ev'ry day's resurrection day,
the past is over and gone!**

3. **Yesterday I was bored and lonely;
But today look and see!
I belong to the Easter People!
Life's exciting to me!**

Ending:

**Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!
Ev'ry day's resurrection day,
the past is over and gone!
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning,
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning,
Ev'r y morning is Easter morning,
From now on!**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:1-2;19-24; NKJV.

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Prayer for Sermon: Psalm 19:14; NKJV.

The Invitation to the Offering: Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)