

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday, April 12 2020
Easter Sunday: A Service for Worship at Home

Prelude

Take this time to take a breath, and quiet your heart and mind.

Greeting and Welcome

Leader: Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

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Opening Prayer

Lord, on this Easter Sunday that is so unlike what we had expected or hoped, meet us where we are. Some of us are running to you in trembling excitement, others of us are hiding in fear, and many of us are somewhere in between. Just as you met those on their way to see you and those tucked away in a room somewhere on that first Easter Sunday, Lord meet us here. Show us the new, resurrected life we have in your resurrected life. Surprise us with your unexpected appearance in our lives, and give us new, resurrected hope in you. Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 118:1, 21-24

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: The LORD has become our salvation; the stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Call to Confession

Colossians 3:1-3

"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Responsive Prayer of Confession

- Leader: Gracious God, we have heard the good news: the stone has been rolled away, the tomb is empty, and Jesus is risen;
- People: Yet we continue to live out of fear rather than faith.**
- Leader: You have gone ahead of us, leading and making a way where there was no way;
- People: Yet we continue to live out of fear rather than hope.**
- Leader: You have called us to go and proclaim this Good News;
- People: Yet we continue to live out of fear rather than love.**
- Leader: Hear our confession this morning, Lord...
- ALL: God of new resurrected life, our mourning is deep and our joy too long absent. Our wilderness journey has been long and chaotic, punctuated with fear and marked by confusion. We confess that throughout this season of Lent and Holy Week, we have doubted your promises of peace and care. We capitulated to the evil all around us, unable to imagine that you could be doing a good, new thing in the middle of suffering.**
- Forgive us for dwelling in Holy Saturday when we should have run to the tomb to discover Easter Sunday will not be stopped. Quell our fear, embolden our witness, and show us the way to our Galilees where the Risen Christ promises to meet us.**
- (Silent confession)*

**Adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Jill Duffield. Used by permission.*

Assurance and Peace

Colossians 3:4

"When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory."

- Leader: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
- People: Thanks be to God!**
- Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you.
- People: And also with you.

Throughout this week, please find ways to share the peace of the risen Christ with one another, with neighbors, and with those in your communities.

Children's Message

Downloadable materials for children (and the young at heart!) can be found on the church website (www.CalvinChurchRI.org) with the worship materials.

1st Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Hymn *This Easter Celebration*

2nd Scripture Reading Acts 10:34-43

Sermon

Hymn *Because He Lives*

Offering **One Great Hour of Sharing**

On this Easter Sunday, please prayerfully consider giving to the *One Great Hour of Sharing*. This is a special offering of our denomination that support the wider work of the church through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People program, three programs of the wider church that have become all the more necessary during this global pandemic. Special giving envelopes and information about OGHS were mailed out earlier in the season, or you can simply note in the memo line of a check "One Great Hour of Sharing."

We understand that these are uncertain and difficult times. But that is all the more reason that the work of the church continues. Please prayerfully continue to give your gifts to this ministry. You can take just a moment to give online through our website, or prepare a check to be mailed.

Prayer of Dedication and the Prayers of the People

Lord God, you love us with a tenacious and everlasting love. We can never earn such favor, deserve such mercy, or repay such grace. We give back to you with joy a portion of what you have entrusted to us. Take these resources as a sign of our gratitude, bless them and use them to spread the good news that Jesus Christ is risen and redemption has been won.

Almighty God, your promises are sure, your love unrelenting, your power unmatched. We bow before you, humbled by your grace, awed by your mercy, rejoicing in your kindness. We do not pretend to understand the mystery of resurrection, but we cannot help but recognize our risen Lord among us, present in our suffering, visible in new creation, made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Gracious Lord, we cannot meet you on the outskirts of the graveyard and not fall on our knees and worship. You suffered and died to forgive us. You became incarnate to show us God's love for us. You healed and fed, taught and preached, prayed and ate with sinners to show us God's will for us. You went to the tomb and were raised from the dead to defeat evil and bring life eternal for the sake of the world. Hear our praise as we shout alleluia and tell all the earth of your glorious resurrection.

You call us by name, Lord of all. Hearing our weeping, you refuse to leave us alone in our grief. Trusting your compassion, we share our deepest hopes and our greatest fears. We lift up to your light those crying in the night. We give thanks for those who have fallen ill and then recovered. Comfort the many who mourn, families unable to hold funerals, doctors and nurses confronted constantly with death, people longing to touch those isolated by this pandemic. We remember your call to care for the least of these and ask that you would give us the wisdom to serve in ways that show your love for all people. When we cannot physically be present, send your Spirit as we send our notes, make our calls and do all we can to visit those in prison, house those without shelter and heal the sick. Help us to feed those who hunger physically, spiritually or emotionally. May your body, the Church, be united in our caring, radical in our generosity, and stalwart in our advocacy.

As this public health crisis lingers in the spring and likely drags into the summer, grant us courage for the living of these days. When our patience is slim and our frustration is misdirected, gently correct us. When we hurt those closest to us and fail to be our best selves, forgive us and remind us to forgive others.

When this season of isolation and sickness comes to an end, do not let us forget the lessons this forced physical distancing have taught us. Take this trying time, these struggles and hardships, and use them for good in ways we cannot now envision, but that you have the power and will to enact.

On this day of resurrection, filled with fear and joy, we worship, we sing, we weep, we give thanks, and most of all, we marvel at your unwillingness to leave us to the consequences of our actions, your tenacious desire to be in relationship with us and your amazing grace through which you have saved us.

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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 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.

Hymn

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Benediction

Sisters and Brothers, do not be afraid; go and tell what you have seen and heard: Jesus Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

May the love of God the Father, The grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, One God, be with you, now and forever. Amen.