



# Hallelujah!

*The Lord  
is risen indeed.*

LUKE 24:34

# APRIL 5

## EASTER SUNDAY



First Presbyterian Church

BELTON

• EST. 1860 •

**GATHERING** *Christ is Risen!*

**PROCESSION AND HYMN # 232** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

**CHIME CHOIR** When I Can Read My Title Clear –  
by Bill Ingram

**\*GREETING**

Dear friends in Christ:

The night is over! The morning is here!

**Christ is risen, risen as he said!**

Sadness has vanished! Tears are no more!

**Death has fled! Life is victorious!**

This is the day the Lord has made:

**We rejoice! We are glad in it!**

Come, assemble for the Feast of Life,

**the Feast of the Kingdom of God!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*EASTER PEACE**

Beloved in Christ,

God's love pours out from the grave of despair.

The Risen One comes with hands full of love.

He greets us with peace the world does not know;

he gives us peace the world cannot give.

**Alleluia! Christ's peace is ours forever!**

Now greet each other with Easter peace!

*(The Easter Peace is shared)*

**\*HYMN # 238** *Thine Is the Glory*

**CHORAL ANTHEM** Easter Hymn of Praise —

Arr. Mary McDonald

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

At your word, God of Life,  
the earth grows green  
and every creature springs to life!

**Re-create us too, we pray, by your holy Word.  
As we receive the ancient Good News,  
give us the new joy and justice of Easter—  
all death destroyed, all captives freed!  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**READING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Jeremiah 31:1–6, 10–12

**READING OF THE PSALM**

Psalms 118:1–6, 15–18, 24

**\*READING OF THE GOSPEL** (*all standing*)

John 20:1–18

**SERMON** *Undaunted Disciples* Rev. Kathy Vineyard

*(The congregation stands)*

\*Let us declare our faith together:

**We believe in the God of Life,  
whose breath is in us  
and whose mercy encircles the creation.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
who loved us indestructibly  
and who shared our pain.  
He is with us now as he promised,  
even to the end of the age.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who welcomes us into the household of faith,  
gives us gifts in abundance,  
enlivens our hearts with joy,  
and urges us into the world  
to testify without fear  
to God's justice and grace.  
Hoping against hope  
for the promised realm of peace,  
we love one another while we live,  
we honor every creature God has made,  
we stand against the powers of sin and death,  
and we bless the earth and all that fills it.  
Glory, thanks, and praise be yours,  
O Living God, now and forever! Amen.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

#### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Good friends,  
since by his resurrection we have new life in Christ,  
bound to each other by cords of compassion, attentive  
to the needs of neighbors far and near, let us live as

new people, committed to the earth and every living thing, eager to serve and share. For the sake of this ministry, we gratefully receive the Easter offering.

**OFFERTORY** *Because He Lives* — arr. Albert Whitworth

**\*DOXOLOGY # 606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Risen Christ, as we celebrate the miracle of your resurrection, we offer these gifts in thanksgiving for the new life you have given us.

**\*COMMUNION HYMN # 248** *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

**EASTER COMMUNION**

**\*INVITATION**

*(The people remain standing)*

Easter people, come now to the table with Christ!

**For he is risen! He lives, and he presides at this feast!**

Come, eat together the bread of life!

**For he is risen, and nothing separates us from God's love!**

Come, drink together from the cup of gladness!

**For Christ is risen—risen as he said!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*PRAISE**

Praise to you, God of glory!

You created the universe and all living things.

You breathed life into our dust  
and gave us a paradise.

You sought us when we hid ourselves,  
ashamed of our sin.

You made a people for yourself,  
and saved them from oppression.

In the fullness of time,  
your love came also to us in your servant Jesus.  
He ministered to us,  
healing, overcoming divisions, welcoming all.  
He died on the cross of shame.

But you vindicated him,  
giving him a life that is forever new!  
This is the life he shares with us:  
a life of justice, mercy,  
and citizenship in your realm of peace.  
All your creatures testify to your mighty deeds!  
They declare your everlasting love!

## REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

*(The congregation is seated)*

Now, O God, with grateful hearts we remember Jesus.

*(Silence)*

We remember that he was laid in a borrowed grave.

**A heavy stone sealed up the tomb.**

We remember that the women came,  
early in the morning, on the third day.

**They did not find him among the dead.**

We remember that his disciples met him on the road.

**He opened the Scriptures, explaining everything,  
and their hearts burned within them.**

They said to him,

“Stay with us, for it is evening.”

So he went in with them.

And while they were at table,  
he took bread, gave thanks,  
and broke it for them to share.

Then their eyes were opened,  
and they knew him in the breaking of the bread.

## **PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Come, Holy Spirit,

bless this bread that earth has given  
and human hands have made.

Bless also this fruit of the vine,  
created for our gladness.

Make them the food and drink of everlasting life,  
body surrendered, blood poured out.

**As we rejoice in the resurrection,  
give us love for each other,  
and make us servants of peace,  
until your new realm is revealed  
and every creature beholds it.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus, who lives  
and presides at this table,  
our host and our feast.**

Thanks be to him, who taught us to say . . .

**THE LORD'S PRAYER "Our Father..."**

**SHARING BREAD AND CUP**

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Let us give thanks!

**Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus,  
for gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die,  
for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends,  
for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice you have made our  
own.**

**Give us the gifts of this holy communion—  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,  
forgiveness of enemies,  
the will to serve you every day,  
and risen life that never ends.**

**In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***\*HYMN # 233 The Day of Resurrection***

**BENEDICTION**

May the living God  
who raised Jesus from the dead  
bless you and keep you  
and make you shine with joy.

May God raise up new life in you  
and give you peace,  
for the sake of Jesus, Lord of Life!

Christ is risen! Tell the world!

**Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Christ is risen! Tell the world!

**Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Christ is risen! Tell the world!

**Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** *To God Be the Glory*



Pastor: The Reverend Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

Music Director and Pianist: Jessye Whitis

Chime Choir Director: Bruce Vineyard

Organist: Carol Tyson

Flautist: Celica Castro

Liturgist: Judy Kintner



*Today's Lilies Provided by*

Name

Remember/Honor

Peggy Comerford

Husband

Pam & Mike Winters

Parents

Arthur & Julie McPhail

God Our Father

Marian & Robert Sutter

Husband & Father

Lynda Allmer

Brother & Parents

Patricia Rye

Family

Carmen Boyd

Johnny Boyd Kennedy  
(son)

