



He is Risen!

I know that my redeemer is alive.

JOB 19:25 (CEB)



Order of Worship

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

First Presbyterian

Church Belton

Reverend Kathy Vineyard

Pastor

**If you are able, please stand*

Our Worship Begins

Gathering and Welcome Thine Is the Glory – by G.F. Handel

Prelude Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - arr. Joel Raney

Procession

Chime Choir Anthem Lamb of God - arr. Lloyd Larson

***Call to worship (from “Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”)**

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Celebrate this day of days! Hosanna! Hosanna!

Let all creation be amazed!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Christ is Risen!

Easter Hymn # 232 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today

***Lighting of the Paschal Candle**

*Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze
with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the
earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.*

Choral Anthem *Easter Morning, Joyous Dawning*

- arr. Leland B. Sateren

Prayer for illumination

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom
of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth.

Liberate us from all that distracts us and turns us from
your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ’s everlasting
hope. Amen.

Reading of the Gospel John 20: 1 - 8

Sermon *We Ride at Dawn*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, .H.R.

***Affirmation of faith** (*Book of Common Worship*)

**This is the good news
which we have received,
In which we stand,
and by which we are saved,
If we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins
according to the scriptures,
that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared
first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

Call for the offering

Give thanks to God for God is good. Let us gratefully
give of our offerings to the glory of God and in praise
of Christ's resurrecting ministry.

Offertory *Easter Joy* - arr. Eugene Butler

***Doxology # 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Prayer of dedication

God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds us, your
generosity fills us to overflowing. Accept these offerings
as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's
behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as
Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by
Christ's spirit. Amen.

Communion Hymn # 238 *Thine Is the Glory*

Communion

We Gather and We Celebrate

What are we to make of this day?
When graves are opened... When the dead awaken...
When life refuses to be contained...
Then nothing is impossible!
Hope is never extinguished
and love is never conquered.

We celebrate You today, Jesus,
Because You have made it clear that death does not have the
last word;
Because You have filled us again with hope and faith;
Because You have given us a vision of new possibilities,
new realities, and new ways of being.

Open our minds to believe what we cannot explain; Open our
hearts to hope for what we cannot see;
Open our lives to live and to love in the midst of death and
despair; Let resurrection happen again in us today.
Amen.

We Acknowledge Our Need

God, resurrection is not what we expect in our world. On the face
of things, life seems to be under threat...
our earth is grieving,
our families are fracturing, our nations are at war,
and the light of our hope is growing dim.

We need the stone to be rolled away again.
Forgive us and all who have failed to honor
and preserve life in all its diversity and glory.
Forgive us and all who have allowed relationships
to become less important than riches or recognition.
Forgive us and all who continue to exalt our needs and desires
over those of others,
and who are prepared to kill to prove it.
Forgive us and all who have grown blind
to all the signs of resurrection that beckon us still.

We need the stone to be rolled away again.
We need life to break out within us again.
We need love to consume us again.
Resurrect us today, O Lord,
and make us agents of Your life
wherever dying and grief hold sway.
For Jesus' sake.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We Feast at the Lord's Table

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Let's celebrate this irrepressible life;
let's open our hearts to the joy and wonder of infinite possibility,
of unquenched hope,
of eternal resurrection.
We celebrate, we raise our voices and our hearts in worship and
thanksgiving to the God who lives.

Resurrection happened because Christ was first prepared to die.
Defying death, He refused to release His hold on life and love.
So now, as He encouraged us, we choose to remember so that
we too can truly live.

At supper on the night before He died
Jesus took bread and blessed it.
Then He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying:
This is my body, broken so that you may know life.
Eat it and remember Me.

After the meal Jesus took wine and blessed it.
Then He gave it to His disciples saying:
This is my blood, shed so that you may know life.
Drink it and remember Me.

So, now, Lord of Life, we share in this meal, we celebrate
together, and we remember You.
And we will continue to do this until resurrection has flooded the
whole creation. Amen.

May this bread and this wine become for us in this moment your
life-giving body and blood,
And may we who share this meal, be joined with you, and with
one another,
as one body united in resurrection life,
and sharing with all of creation in your eternal salvation.
Amen.

As we break this bread, we receive Christ's life.
In all our diversity, in all our individuality, as
we share this one loaf we are one.

Communion is received.

Easter Hymn # 233 *The Day of Resurrection!

Charge and benediction

Celebrate this day of days! Rejoice in God, your Savior!
Know the new life gifted through Jesus Christ!
Shout your Alleluia's for all to hear!

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator,
Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever.
Amen.

Postlude *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* - arr. Fred Bock

Musicians

George Weaver, Director of Music
Bruce Vineyard, Chime Choir Director
Jessye Whitis, Pianist



LILIES FOR EASTER SUNDAY, March 31, 2024

TODAY'S EASTER LILIES WERE GIVEN
"HONORING" OR "IN MEMORY OF"

Delores June Guizlo and Billy and Ruth McPhail
(Julie McPhail)

Elmer Sutter
(Marian Sutter)

Lois and Homer Proctor
(Lynda Allmer)

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Livingston
Mr. and Mrs. James Makin
(Bob and Ginny Livingston)

Husband and Parents
(Peggy Comerford)

Bill, Frances, and Elizabeth Haldy
Buster and Dixie Atwood
(Tom and Kay Atwood)

Guilford L. Jones, Jr.
(Sandra Jones)

Kevin Morris,
Felicisima Marino, Evangelina Owens
(Sandra Parkhurst)

The Vineyards

Henry and Mimi Rinks
Laurence Boyles
(Boyles Family)

Virginia Whitis
(Jessye Whitis)