



The Order of Worship

April 4, 2021  
8:00, 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

## EASTER SUNDAY

### THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

*The resurrection is God's way of revealing to us that nothing that belongs to God will ever go to waste. What belongs to God will never get lost. The resurrection doesn't answer any of our common questions about life after death such as: "How will it be? How will it look?" But it does reveal to us that love is stronger than death. God's love for us, our love for each other, and our love for those who lived before and will live after us is not just a quickly passing experience, but a reality transcending all time and space.*

—Our Greatest Gift, Father Henri Nowen

PRELUDE Symphony No. 5

William Boyce

Members of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

### OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is Risen!

**People: Christ is risen, indeed!**

Leader: Hope is alive!

**People: Hope is alive, indeed!**

Leader: God's love is eternal!

**People: Hallelujah! Let us give thanks for what God has done.**

#### TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

HYMN This Easter Celebration

*Aurelia*

This Easter celebration is not like one we've known. We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns at home. We're distant from our neighbors—from worship leaders too. No flowers grace the chancel to set the festive mood.

We thank you that on Easter your church is blessed to be a scattered faithful body that's doing ministry. In homes and in the places of help and healing, too, we live the Easter message of gladly serving you.

#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Gracious God, we confess that we are often captive to our doubts and fears. We fear death as the ending of life. We fear death as the letting go of old ways, old relationships, old self-understandings. We also confess our fear of life. We fear that which is different, we fear change that comes too fast and a future that seems too uncertain. Most of all, we fear what we become when we fear, for we fail to live joyfully in freedom as your children, we overlook those you would have us serve, and we neglect to be fully present to your holy presence. Forgive us and raise us to new life in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*KYRIE ELEISON NO. 574 (blue hymnal)

arr. David N. Johnson

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

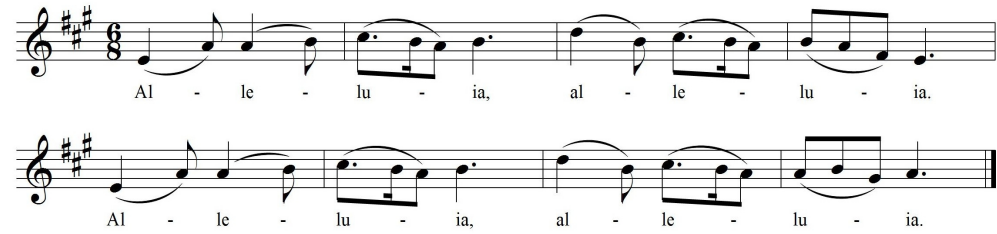
\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*RESPONSE Celtic Alleluia (*sing twice*)

Fintan O'Carroll



**TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 25:6-9

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (9:00 and 11:00)**

Allie Brewington

*Children age 4 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to go to the playground after the lesson.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-8

**SERMON**

Rev. Gradye Parsons (8:00), Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips (9:00 and 11:00)

**ANTHEM Alleluia (from Motet No. 6 "Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden"), BWV 230**

J. S. Bach

Chancel Choir

Helen Bryenton and Daron Douglas, Violins

Chris Boring, Viola

Andy Bryenton, Cello

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)**

from *A Declaration of Faith*

**In the death of Jesus Christ, God's way in the world seemed finally defeated. But death was no match for God. The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death. Death often seems to prove that life is not worth living, that our best efforts and deepest affections go for nothing. We do not yet see the end of death. But Christ has been raised from the dead, transformed and yet the same person. In his resurrection is the promise of ours. We are convinced that the life God wills for each of us is stronger than the death that destroys us. The glory of that life exceeds our imagination, but we know we shall be with Christ. So we treat death as a broken power. Its ultimate defeat is certain. In the face of death we grieve. Yet in hope we celebrate life. No life ends so tragically that its meaning and value are destroyed. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ... The Lord's Prayer**

*During the Prayers of the People there will be a time of silence. You are invited to use this time for personal reflection, confession, thanksgiving, and prayer.*

**TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...**

**HYMN Jesus Christ Is Risen Today**

*Easter Hymn*

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia! Praise our God, ye heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** O Praise the Lord

Adam Gumpelzhaimer

O praise the Lord, all ye people praise him, for He is good, Alleluia! With all the saints and angels join now and sing to God a joyful song.

based on Psalm 67

Westminster Choristers

**\*POSTLUDE** Toccata (from *Symphony No. 5*)

Charles-Marie Widor

\*Indicates standing.

**NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS**

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**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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