

Easter

Service of Worship April 5, 2026 11:00am
Easter Day/Resurrection of the Lord

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Ubi Caritas”
Linda Dover, piano

arr. Charles Callahan

THE FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

(You are invited to come forward and place a flower on the cross as a symbol of the transition from Good Friday to Easter. As you place your flower, remember Jesus’ death and give thanks for his resurrection.)

INTROIT

“He Lives”
Charter Ringers

arr. Mitchel Eithun

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God’s throne! Jesus Christ our King is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

One: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

One: Rejoice, O mother church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy, echoing the might song of all God's people!

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 826 "Lift High the Cross" arr. Paul Ledington Wright
Refrain All Throughout ... Verse 1 All (*Parts*) CRUCIFER
Verse 2 High Voices (*Unison to End*) ... Verse 3 Low Voices ... Verse 4 All

Symbols of faith are returned to the Sanctuary

PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION AND HOPE (*spoken together*) Rev. Karen Wright

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you have shattered the power of sin and death and opened the way to new life. In your mercy, you meet us even in our doubt and fear, gently freeing us from all that binds us. You open our eyes to see the poor and the hungry, soften our hearts to walk with those who mourn, and awaken our ears to hear the cries of the oppressed. You call us into your peace, strengthen us to honor the vulnerable, and renew in us a deep love for all your creation.

By your Spirit, you are at work within us—transforming our lives, restoring our hope, and making your light shine through us. We rejoice that your resurrection power is alive among us, leading us into the joy of abundant life in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Christ has been raised from the dead. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: We share the peace of Christ saying, Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

*HYMN 232

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

v.1 & 2 ALL

v. 3: CHANCEL CHOIR

v 4 ALL

Equipping

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

Anne Stroud

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”
I shall not die, but I shall live
and recount the deeds of the Lord.
The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

ANTHEM

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

Benjamin David Knoedler

Chancel Choir with

GCPC Orchestra

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only Light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shade of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by Thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till Thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.*

*Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.*

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 28:1–10 (NRSVue)

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“He Is Not Here”

Rev. Karen Wright

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY

“See What a Morning”

Chancel Choir with
GCPC Orchestra

Getty and Townsend
arr. Mary McDonald

*See, what the morning, gloriously bright,
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the graveclothes, tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God’s salvation plan, wrought in love,
Born in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives:
Christ is risen from the dead!*

*See Mary weeping, “Where is He laid?”
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
It’s the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years, speaking life,
Stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
Will sound ’til He appears, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!*

*One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty,
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with power and authority.
And we are raised with Him, death is dead,
Love was won, Christ has conquered.
And we shall reign with Him, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of great gifts: This morning we give you praise, we give you glory, we give you thanks! With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace! We joyfully present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! Amen

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayers of the People, and The Lord’s Prayer

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 us 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

The Words of Institution

Music for Communion

“Beautiful”

Heather Sorenson

“Prayer of Worship”

Linda Dover, piano & Daniel Yung, cello

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup –

This morning we are celebrating communion by intinction. Please come forward via the center aisle, receive a piece of bread, and dip it in the cup. Return to your seat using the outside aisle. Stations are at the front and rear of the Sanctuary. If you need to remain seated, communion can be brought to you.

Prayer After Communion

Sending

*HYMN 233

“The Day of Resurrection!”

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE (*seated*)

“Lift High the Cross”

Paul Manz

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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EASTER MUSICIANS AND MEDIA

TECH & MEDIA CREW

Jason Turner, audio/tech director

Joel Kesler, tech & media crew

CHARTER RINGERS

Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

Linda Bruns - Kathy Bures - Edwin Fukunaga - Katie Hearn - Donna Heer - Cheryl Johnson - Jim Kelly
Angela Krug - Keith Langabee - Lynn Long - Lara Schesser - Cal Sweeten - Jason Walker - Mikki Walker

CHANCEL CHOIR

Patrick O'Halloran, director

Linda Dover, accompanist

Allen York - Anne Hirner - Anne Stroud - Azaria Richardson - Barbara Douglas
Beth Lillian - Bill Turner - Bob Dover - Cal Sweeten - Chris Lindsay - Cindy Schendel
Connie Richards - Conor Schesser - David Sutherland - Diane Hevener
Edwin Fukunaga - Ellin Schoenfeld - Emily Nelson Dixon - Esme Dixon - Gene Wilson
Harold Frye - Janie Baker - Jim Kelly - Karen Kesler - Kathy Bures
Keith Langabee - Kelly Scarborough - Lara Schesser
Lauren Bond - Linda Bruns - Mac Fechtling - Melanie Townsend – Nelson Townsend
Pam Kelly - Paul Bruns - Rob Schendel - Susan Hayden - Terri Monrad

GCPC ORCHESTRA

Flute - Susan Culp	Tuba - Trey Bures
Oboe - Chris Culp	Percussion - Marcus Rattler, Keith Langabee
Clarinet - Lauren Bond, Edwin Fukunaga	Violin - Donna Heer, Chris Lindsay
Horn - Jim Kelly, Carolyn Mammen	Cello - Daniel Yung
Trumpet - Darryl Prater, Kevin Farrel, Lane Benton	Bass - Gay Lee Ludwig Bonney
Euphonium - Lara Schesser, Mike Hockley	Saxophone/Bass Guitar - Miles McDonald
	Guitar - Christopher Callender



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