



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021

11am

Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community

PRELUDE

“Trumpet Sonata in D major”
Joon Park, trumpet and Linda Dover, continuo

by Arcangelo Corelli
(1683–1713)

THE FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Jesus' death to joyful celebration of his resurrection. Today we transform the barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into a symbol of Jesus' resurrection and his continuing presence among us today.

HYMN 826

“Lift High the Cross”

CRUCIFER
setting by Paul Leddington Wright



Lift High the Cross 826

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

to Refrain

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
 your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP *(video)*

ANTHEM

“Gaelic Alleluia”

PUER NOBIS

Chancel Ensemble – Rebecca Prater, director

arr. Craig Courtney

Linda Dover & Chris Krug, 4-hand piano

Daniel Cole, tambourine

*Singers: Karen Kesler, Liz Chandler, Sue Trigger,
David Sutherland, Bob Dover, and Mitch Trigger*

*Joy dawned again on Easter Day, the sun shone out with fair array,
when to their ongoing eyes restored, th’apostles saw their risen Lord. Alleluia.*

*O Jesus King of gentleness, do thou thyself our hearts possess
that we may give thee all our days the willing tribute of our praise. Alleluia.*

*O Lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide;
from ev’ry weapon death can wield thine own redeemed forever shield. Alleluia.*

*O sons, and daughters of the King, whom heav’nly hosts in glory sing,
today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

A TIME WITH STEWART

HYMN 250

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

PROMISE

Katie Hearn, flute – Bob Dover, clarinet – Joon Park, trumpet



In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us throughout our Lenten journey. You have celebrated our successes and our growing understanding of your love; and you have mourned our failures and rejections of your healing mercies. This day, as we have gathered to celebrate the joy of Easter, let us remember that we are to become “Easter People,” people of the resurrection; people who know that what was thought to be impossible has been conquered. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Fill us with your healing love and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world. For we ask this in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you. (*kid’s choir video*)

ALL: And also with you and all others!

ANTHEM

“Rejoice This Day!”

FINLANDIA

Chancel Ensemble – Joon Park, trumpet

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*Rejoice this day! The risen King of glory lives once again and from the tomb is free!
The prison doors of death cannot contain him, for in his hand alone he holds the key.*

Alleluia! Triumphant, he has risen, and he will reign for all eternity!

Rejoice this day! The risen King of glory calls us from death to everlasting life:

“Rise from the grave of ev’rything that binds you. Come forth from sin and darkness into light!”

Alleluia! O blessed Easter promise: we have eternal life and light in Christ!

Rejoice, one day we too will rise in glory! In triumph we will join the risen King!

With trumpet sound together we will praise him, who was and is, and evermore shall be.

“Alleluia! The Lamb alone is worthy. Death is no more,” forever we will sing.

Our King of glory! “Alleluia!”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Equipping People to Develop and
Share a Faith That Works in Real Life*

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:1–18

(CEB)

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him.” Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together,

but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means *Teacher*).

Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.

Thanks be to God!

RUNG RESPONSE

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

arr. Lloyd Larson

Charter Ringers II – Celia Nicholas, director

Chris Krug, accompanist

Ringers: Linda Bruns, Kathy Bures, Katie Hearn,

Cheryl Johnson, and Cal Sweeten

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!*

ONLINE OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

ONE: The Day of Celebration is here!

ALL: Alleluia!

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

ONE: ...Christ who died is now alive!

ALL: Alleluia! Amen.

ONE: And so, as children of a loving Parent, we pray together the words that Jesus, the Risen Christ, taught his friends to pray saying:

ALL: 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

BREAKING OF BREAD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN 245

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

LLANFAIR

245 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
 4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to you by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise,
 Je - sus died, our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Originally printed as eleven four-line stanzas without alleluias, this Easter text was written during the first year following the author's life-changing conversion experience, yet it already shows his enduring emphasis on the theme of love. This lively Welsh tune sets it well.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà”
Linda Dover, organist

by Charles-Marie Widor

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU



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