

Easter

Service of Worship April 5, 2026 9:00am
Easter Day/Resurrection of the Lord

Gathering

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.)

SONGS TO FLOWER

"Indescribable"

by Lara Story & Jesse Reeves

"We Come to You"

by Joshua Blakesley

"Morning by Morning"

by Barrett, Smith, Bashta & Brock

Praise Team/**All**

Daily, daily, I surrender ~ Grace for today is all that I need

Surprised by a mercy that's new every morning

Awaken my soul to sing ~ Oh, awaken my soul to sing

I will trust where you lead ~ I will trust when I can't see

Morning by morning, great is your faithfulness to me

Breath by breath, overtaken by wonder.

One step at a time when I'm overwhelmed

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow

Awaken my soul to sing ~ Oh, awaken my soul to sing

I will trust where you lead ~ I will trust when I can't see
Morning by morning, great is your faithfulness to me
I will trust with all my heart ~ You are good, you always are
Morning by morning ~ Great is your faithfulness to me

All fear be reminded ~ My future is secure
Oh, my father has spoken ~ And he keeps his every word
All fear be reminded ~ My future is secure
Oh, my father has spoken ~ And he keeps his every word

I will trust where you lead ~ I will trust when I can't see
Morning by morning, great is your faithfulness to me
I will trust with all my heart ~ You are good, you always are
Morning by morning ~ Great is your faithfulness to me
Morning by morning ~ Great is your faithfulness to me

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Emily Nelson Dixon

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 mighty 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"

CRUCIFER

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!

*SONG OF PEACE

"Love the Lord"

by Brewster

All/Praise Team

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. (2x)
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.**

**I will serve the Lord with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength (2x)
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.**

**I will serve the Lord with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength**

*I will love you (I will love you) * I will praise you (I will praise you)*
*I will serve you (I will serve you) * I will trust you (I will trust you)*
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. (2x)

Equipping

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

Joy Slayton

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.

SONG TO REFLECT

“Power to Redeem”
Praise Team

by Daigle, Mabury & Ebach

*You take what is and you make it beautiful,
When love floods in, we're restored forevermore.
With breath that brings the dead to life, with words that pierce the dark with light,
Only by the blood are we set free.
With mercy strong to carry shame and nail it to a tree,
You alone hold the power to redeem.*

*No guilt competes with innocence crucified.
No grave can hold what your grace has justified.
With breath that brings the dead to life, with words that pierce the dark with light,
Only by the blood are we set free.
With mercy strong to carry shame and nail it to a tree,
You alone hold the power to redeem.*

*So, rejoice, o child of God. Life your eyes to see.
With ev'ry morning light, again we are redeemed.*

*With breath that brings the dead to life, with words that pierce the dark with light,
Only by the blood are we set free.
With mercy strong to carry shame and nail it to a tree,
You alone hold the power to redeem.*

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

SONG TO GIVE

“Your Love Awakens Me”

by Wickham & Quilala

All

**There were walls between us. By the cross you came and broke them down,
you broke them down.**

**There were chains around us. By your grace we are no longer bound,
No longer bound.**

You called me out of this grave. You called me into the light.

You called my name and then, my heart came alive.

Your love is greater. Your love is stronger.

Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. (2X)

Feel the darkness shaking. All the dead are coming back to life.

I’m back to life.

Hear the song awaken ~ all creation singing,

“We’re alive ‘cause you’re alive!”

You called me out of this grave. You called me into the light.

You called my name and then, my heart came alive.

Your love is greater. Your love is stronger.

Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. (2X)

What a love we’ve found. Death can’t hold us down.

We shout it out: We’re alive ‘cause you’re alive! (2X)

Your love is greater. Your love is stronger.

Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. (2X)

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

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.

Music for Communion

"I Shall Not Want"

by Assad & Brown

Praise Team

*From the love of my own comfort ~ From the fear of having nothing
From a life of worldly passions
Deliver me, O God*

*From the need to be understood ~ From the need to be accepted
From the fear of being lonely
Deliver me, O God ~ Deliver me, O God*

*And I shall not want, I shall not want
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want*

*From the fear of serving others ~ From the fear of death or trial
From the fear of humility
Deliver me, O God ~ Deliver me, O God*

*And I shall not want, I shall not want
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want*

Prayer After Communion

Sending

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

***SONG TO SEND**

“It Really Is Amazing Grace” by Smith, Wickham & Crowder

All

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch life me.
I once was lost, but now I’m found, was blind, but now I see.**

**Singing Hallelujah, there’s no chains on me.
Thank you Jesus, you have set me free.
You welcomed me in, called me by name,
was dead in my sin, now I’m dancing on that grave.
Hallelujah, it really is amazing grace.**

**Tw’as grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**Singing Hallelujah, there’s no chains on me.
Thank you Jesus, you have set me free.
You welcomed me in, called me by name,
was dead in my sin, now I’m dancing on that grave.
Hallelujah, it really is amazing grace.**

**I’ll testify of what he did. He gave me life, I’m born again.
My heart is free, my soul is saved. It really is amazing grace. (2X)**

**I’ll testify of what he did – it really is amazing grace.
I’m born again, my heart is free – sing Hallelujah!**

**Hallelujah, there’s no chains on me.
Thank you Jesus, you have set me free.
You welcomed me in, called me by name,
was dead in my sin, now I’m dancing on that grave.
Hallelujah, it really is amazing grace.**

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE PAD: Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below, and it will take you to the link.



EASTER MUSICIANS & MEDIA

Tech & Media Crew

Jason Turner, audio/tech director
Ray Kowalczewski, tech & media

Praise Team

Carrie DeVries — director, piano, & vocals
Donna Goeckler, Jami Howe, Michelle Gailliez-Frye, Cal Sweeten — vocals
Stephen Wing — guitar & vocals
Darryl Prater — trumpet
Miles McDonald — bass



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gpcpc.org