



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021

9am

Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community

SONGS TO GATHER

“Uncreated One”

Chris Tomlin

“Who But Jesus”

Laura Story

“Lead Me to the Cross”

Hillsong

*Savior I come, quiet my soul -remember
redemption's hill where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss
**Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down
Rid me of myself, I belong to You
Oh, lead me
Lead me to the cross
You were as I, tempted and tried
You are, the word became flesh
Bore my sin and death
Now You're risen
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss
**Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down
Rid me of myself, I belong to You
Oh, lead me
Lead me to the cross*****

*To Your heart - To Your heart
Lead me to Your heart - Lead me to Your heart
Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down
Rid me of myself, I belong to You
Oh, lead me
Lead me
Lead me to the cross*

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. All are welcome to place a flower on the cross and give thanks for Christ's promise of new life.

SONGS TO PRAISE

"I Raise a Hallelujah"

Helser, Skaggs, Stevens

*I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah, heaven comes to fight for me
**I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!***

*I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah, fear you lost your hold on me!
**I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!**
I raise a hallelujah, **up from the ashes!**
I raise a hallelujah, **Hope DID arise**
I raise a hallelujah, **death is defeated!**
I raise a hallelujah, **the King is ALIVE!***

"Broken Vessels /Amazing Grace"

Hillsong

*All these pieces broken and scattered
In mercy gathered, mended and whole
Empty handed, but not forsaken
I've been set free ~I've been set free*

*Amazing grace~How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost~But now I'm found
Was blind but now I see*

*Oh I can see you now~Oh I can see the love in Your eyes
Laying yourself down~Raising up the broken to life*

*You take our failure, You take our weakness
You set Your treasure in jars of clay
So take this heart, Lord, I'll be Your vessel
The world to see Your life in me*

*Amazing grace~How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost~But now I'm found
Was blind but now I see*

*Oh I can see you now~Oh I can see the love in Your eyes
Laying yourself down~Raising up the broken to life*

*Amazing grace~How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost~But now I'm found
Was blind but now I see*

*Oh I can see you now~Oh I can see the love in Your eyes
Laying yourself down~Raising up the broken to life*

***INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Sisters and brothers in Christ, take your places here today in celebration and in awe. What you are about to hear again, has the capacity to change the world. Your very presence attests to the rising up of life from the tomb of despair, and to the uncontrollable power of God. It is Easter morning again and we will celebrate. Jesus Christ is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SONG TO REFLECT

"Glorious Day"

Ingram

*I was buried beneath my shame. Who could carry that kind of weight? It was my tomb 'til I met You.
I was breathing, but not alive. All my failures I tried to hide. It was my tomb, 'til I met You.*

*You called my name, and I ran out of that grave! Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave! Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!*

Now Your mercy has saved my soul. Now your freedom is all that I know.

The old made new, Jesus, when I met You.

*you called my name, and I ran out of that grave! Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave! Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!*

I needed rescue. My sin was heavy, but chains break at the weight of Your glory.

I needed shelter. I was an orphan. Now You call me a citizen of Heaven.

When I was broken, You were my healing; now Your love is the air that I'm breathing.

I have a future. My eyes are open...

'cause when You called my name, and I ran out of that grave!

Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!

You called my name, and I ran out of that grave! Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!

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.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*(We encourage you to share the peace of Christ with joy
while at the same time maintaining good health practices.)*

SONG TO PRAY

“Lord I Need You”

Maher

Lord I come, I confess - Bowing here, I find my rest
Without You, I fall apart - You're the one that guides my heart
Lord, I need You, oh I need You - Every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness - Oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more - Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are, Lord I am free - Holiness is Christ in me
Lord, I need You, oh I need You - Every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness - Oh God, how I need You

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

Lord, I need You, oh I need You - Every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness - Oh God, how I need You

My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

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!

SERMON

“Who are You Looking For?”

Revs. Sue and Mitch Trigger

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

ONE: The Day of Celebration is here!

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: We gather at the table to share in the Banquet of Life!

ALL: Here we meet all who share with us the hope for a brighter future!

ONE: All who wish to follow The Way of Life are welcome to eat and drink at God's table. The table is prepared, let us pray.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ONE: Gracious God, we raise voices hoarse from shouting alleluias, we sing praises for the wonder of an empty tomb, we give thanks for the gifts of life that break the bonds of death.

ALL: We sing songs of praise for the world you have given us, for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies.

ONE: As the spring deepens and the earth thaws, as green breaks through the brown of winter,

ALL: We sing songs of hope for new life springing from dead soil, for the promise held in every seed that is sown.

ONE: As people of faith we remember all those who have gone before.

ALL: People like Moses and Miriam, leading their people to freedom;

ONE: like Sarah and Abraham, seeking a new life in a strange land;

ALL: Like Peter and Mary, proclaiming an empty tomb and life beyond the cross.

ONE: We remember these and many others, named and unnamed, who have embraced your life, your hope, and moved into a new age. God of Life, in the beginning your Spirit hovered over the water,

ALL: Calling forth life, creating and inspiring.

ONE: Send Your Spirit upon we who gather to share this meal, infuse this bread and this juice with the Spirit's power,

ALL: As we eat and drink my we feel the power of life triumphant pulse in our veins, the fire of hope blaze in our hearts, and the joy of the empty tomb dance in our souls.

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

ONE: ...and so we break the bread and pour the cup and we remember with hope.

ALL: On this Easter day we share in God's banquet to celebrate life victorious!

SONG TO RECEIVE

"Come to the Table"

Crowder

*Come out of sadness, from wherever you've been. Come, broken-hearted; let rescue begin.
Come find your mercy; oh, sinner, come kneel. Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal.
So, lay down your burdens, lay down your shame. All who are broken, lift up your face.
Oh, wanderer, come home; you're not too far. So, lay down your hurt, lay down your heart;
come as you are.*

*There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed. Come sit at the table,
come taste the grace.*

*There's rest for the weary, rest that endures. Earth has no sorry that heaven can't cure.
So, lay down your burdens, lay down your shame. All who are broken, lift up your face.
Oh, wanderer, come home; you're not too far. So, lay down your hurt, lay down your heart;
come as you are.*

*Come as you are. Fall in His arms. Come as you are.
There's joy for the mourning. Oh, sinner, be still. Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal.
So, lay down your burdens, lay down your shame. All who are broken, lift up your face.*

*Oh, wanderer, come home; you're not too far. So, lay down your hurt, lay down your heart;
come as you are.*

COMMUNION PRAYER (*responsive*)

ALL: We have eaten, we have drunk, and we have embraced the beginning of the new age. Grant, O God, that we who have gathered together on this day of resurrection, will move on as people of hope, people of life, people of the kingdom. May the meal we have shared today revive us in body and soul and energize us as we go out to share the good news.

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: Death is defeated!

ONE: Love wins!

ALL: Alleluia and Amen!

SONG TO RESPOND

“All the People Said Amen”

Maher

*And all the people said Amen
Whoa, oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen*

*You are not alone if you are lonely
When you're feeling frail, you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God, it's all you need
And all the people said Amen
Whoa, oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen*

*If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong, we know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together*

*God knows we stumble and fall
And he so loved the world he sent his son to save us all
And all the people said Amen
Whoa, oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen*

*Blessed are the poor spirits who are torn apart
Blessed are the prosecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people lonely for another start
For this is a kingdom
The kingdom of God*

***And all the people said Amen**
Whoa, oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen*

***And all the people said Amen**
Whoa. oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen
And all the people said Amen*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SONG TO SEND

“All the People Said Amen”

Maher

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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