WEBSTER GROVES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021
9:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION
We seek to live Christ’s love,
welcome all people and joyfully serve God.
Service for the Lord’s Day

As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

~GATHERING FOR GOD’S WORD~

PRELUDE  “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”  Andrew Clark
Shawn Portell, organ

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP  Clair Bellows, Liturgist

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
This is the good news we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
That Christ died for our sins, and was buried,
and rose again on the third day.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
He appeared to Peter, and to the twelve,
and to the many faithful witnesses.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
At last he came to us, that we might come to believe
and proclaim this good news to the world.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

OPENING HYMN #232  “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”  EASTER HYMN
(music at the end of the bulletin)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak,
and abuse the earth you made.

Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Because we were buried with Christ in these waters,
we are also raised to life with him.
Believe the gospel!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.
Jesus said to her,
"I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

~PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD~

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION
Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Clair Bellows, Liturgist

Living God, with joy we celebrate
the presence of your risen Word.
Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit
so that we may proclaim the good news
of eternal and abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING
John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid
him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON
Rev. Hannah Zyla

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

~RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD~

OFFERING INVITATION

The Lord prepares a table for us
in the presence of our enemies;
God anoints us with oil; our cups overflow.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Angels Visit When We Sing”
Chancel Choir

Angels visit when we sing and the morning stars rejoice,
we can hear them echoing in each faithful heart and voice:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Angels visit when we sing as they did at Jesus’ birth
and the music that they bring links the heavens with the earth!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Angels visit when we sing and remind us with their praise
sin and death have lost their sting! For the crucified is raised!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Angels visit when we sing and our hearts are touched by fire,
as our hymns and anthems ring with the sound of heaven’s choir
Alleluia, alleluia!
INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In every time and every age, O God,
it is good and faithful that we give you thanks,
for your mercy is sure
and your steadfast love endures forever.

In your compassion you gave us Christ Jesus,
who sets us free from death
and leads us to life eternal.

And so, with all creation,
with all the needy and hungry ones,
with all those who have enough and plenty,
with creatures large and small,
with sun and moon and stars,
and with the saints of every age,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Per Harling, 2004
Music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress
Blessed are you, O God, creator of all things.
By your power and love you continue
to deliver your people from bondage,
thwart the designs of evil,
show the way through the wilderness,
turn hardship into righteousness,
and reveal your hand upholding the just.

Blessed are you, O Christ, servant of the universe.
You came among us to feed and heal and teach,
to confound the haughty,
to confuse the deceivers,
to challenge the wrong-hearted,
and, in all these things,
to give hope to those who long for peace.

Remembering our Lord’s self-giving love,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

560 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Blessed are you, O Spirit, giver of life.
You give us words when we have none;
you fill us with vision when we have the most need;
you give us voice to proclaim our faith in every hour.
Be our guide and teacher, today and always.

Come now, O Prince of Peace,
Spirit of Love,
Breath of Life.
Bring to all this hurting world the joy that Mary knew,
and teach us to proclaim with her,
"I have seen the Lord!"

In the unity of the Holy Trinity,
in gratitude for this great day of resurrection,
we praise you, God of all that is,
now and forever.
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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

When Jesus was at table with his disciples
he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat.
Whenever you do this, remember me.

In the same way he took and poured the cup,
saying: Take and drink.
Whenever you do this, remember me.

Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table,
we celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection until he comes again.

COMMUNION OF GOD’S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we give you thanks
that by the witness of your word
and the sharing of this meal
you have opened our hearts and eyes
to the presence of Christ among us.
Now send us forth from this place
by the power of your Spirit
to tell this good news to the world:
The Lord has risen indeed! Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #244

"This Joyful Eastertide"  VRUECHTEN (arr. Jeremy Bankson)
(music at the end of the bulletin)

BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the steadfast love of the Lord be yours,
this day and forever.

Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Do not be afraid.
Go and tell this good news to all.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah” from Messiah
G.F. Handel/arr. Bish
Shawn Portell, organ

As you rest in the postlude, our final offering to God, you are invited to use this time to reflect on
how you have met God here today, and how you will bring God’s love into the world that awaits.

Worship Notes

Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by:
Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012
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Bulletin cover art:
Those Who Serve Today

Ushers: Debbie Miali, Bryce Rawers, Matt Robinson, Betsy Wacker, Bob Weng, Judy Weng
Liturgists: Clair Bellows
Camera Operators: Allison Byrne, Josh Zumwinkel

Chancel Flowers

The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William F. James, Harry M. and Evelyn M. James and Edward F. and Ruby K. Quentin, the gift of Karen James and family.

Easter Flowers

The Sanctuary Easter flowers have been given in loving memory of the following:

- In memory of John & Mildred Arnold  Given by John Arnold
- In memory of Eleanor Joy Booth  Given by Mary & Joy Kinsley
- In memory of Sandra Buschmann  Given by Mr. & Mrs. James Wood
- In memory of Rosalie Cooper  Given by Mr. & Mrs. James Wood

Additional Easter flowers have been given by the following:

- Kristy Anderson
- Susan Andrews
- Debra Grossman
- Donna Bellows
- Julie Burchett
- Barbara Hemphill
- Jamie Scott
- Karen Schneider
- Laurel Tinsley
- Georgia Urban
- MaryAnn Wallace
- Ed Zumwinkel

Ministry Staff

Pastor: Rev. Edwin Zumwinkel III  efc@wgpc.org
Associate Pastor: Rev. Hannah Zyla  hmd@wgpc.org
Theologian in Residence: Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews  sra@wgpc.org
Pastoral Assistant for Congregational Care: John Rawlings  jdrtsn@gmail.com
Director of Music Ministries/Organist: Shawn Portell  spp@wgpc.org
Interim Director of Youth and Family Services: Rev. Pat Cleeland  pdc@wgpc.org
Mission Outreach Coordinator: Beth Kazlaukas  bok@wgpc.org
Connections Coordinator: Tracey Rapisardo  tar@wgpc.org
Business Administrator: Jan Scheurer  jls@wgpc.org
Assistant Business Administrator: Joyce Kimmons  jlk@wgpc.org
Senior Staff Assistant: open
Educational Ministries Assistant,
Digital Communications Specialist: Cherstin Byers  chb@wgpc.org
Custodial Supervisor: Pete Brennan  (314) 962-9210 ext 3212

45 West Lockwood Avenue  www.wgpc.org
Webster Groves, MO 63119  314-962-9210
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Jesus Christ is risen today,
Hymns of praise then let us sing,
But the pains which he endured,
Sing we to our God above,

our triumphant holy day,
unto Christ, our heavenly King,
our salvation have procured.
praise eternal as God’s love.

who did once upon the cross,
who endured the cross and grave,
Now above the sky he’s King,
Praise our God, ye heavenly host.

suffer to redeem our loss.
sinners to redeem and save.
where the angels ever sing.
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
This Joyful Eastertide

George Woodward, 1848-1934

VRUECHTEN

a 17th cent. Dutch folk tune

All: 1. This joyful Eastertide, Away with sin and

Choir: 2. My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season

All: 3. Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the

sor - row! My love, the Cru-ci-
slam - ber Till trump from east to
riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from

fied, Has sprung to life this mor - row.
west Shall wake the dead in num - ber:
ill My pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his

three-day pris - on, Our faith had been in vain: But

now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -
ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en.
April 4, 2021 Announcements

Prayer Squares
Be sure to pick up your prayer square at the close of Easter services today. They will be located at each of the exits to the sanctuary.

Coffee Fellowship
*Sundays, following the 9:30am worship service*
Join us in the parking lot after the worship service for in-person, socially distanced fellowship and coffee!

Family Easter Craft
*11:00am just outside the Lockwood doors*
Families of all kinds are welcome to join us outside the Lockwood doors to make household Paschal candles for the Easter season! Please wear a mask (everyone 3+) and plan to social distance.

Church Building Closed
*Monday, April 5th*
The church building will be closed Monday, April 5th in observance of Easter Monday.

The Black Tax Webinar
*Thursday, April 8th, 6:30pm - Zoom*
All are invited to register for Part Two of The Black Tax webinar taking place on April 8th at 6:30pm. If you missed Part One, you can watch the recording at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eRhSpNGDaE Part One details the economic impact of slavery and racism on Black Americans.

See the Friday Flash to register for the Zoom link to join author Shawn Rochester for Part Two, which will help guide us towards taking action in response to these injustices. The webinar is hosted by the Dismantling Racism & White Privilege committee of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery.

Adult Faith Formation - Is Resurrection Real?
*Sunday, April 11th, 10:45am - Fellowship Hall or Zoom*
The Easter message of Resurrection is the heart of the Christian Faith - and yet it is a mystery that is hard to understand or explain. What do you think? Join this dialogue with Pastor Ed and Pastor Susan as we reflect on two appearance stories from the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Luke, as well as ideas from theologians Shirlie Guthrie and Marcus Borg. Doubters are welcome!

See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.
Faithful Endings, Hopeful Beginnings
Small Grief Fellowship Group
Sundays, April 11-May 16, 8:15am - Church Parlor

It's an understatement to say that this past year has been a difficult one. During this time many things have changed and strained our old normal. Many of us have experienced the loss of a loved one, a job or the ability to physically gather together. In addition, we each have been busy figuring out how things will work, what we feel safe doing, where to go and what lies ahead. We have lost many of our usual ways of processing and managing life's challenges and the opportunity to gain support through gathering together in community.

As our church is re-opening, the Gathering Task Force is forming a small, grief fellowship group called Faithful Endings, Hopeful Beginnings. It will be facilitated by Stephen Minister, Nancy Knight. This is an opportunity to connect with others, share experiences and offer each other support and hope. We will practice all safe health protocol with masks, safe distancing and hand sanitizer.

If you are interested in being a part of, or learning about this group, please contact Nancy Knight at ncknight218@gmail.com or 314-494-2283

Operation Food Search Volunteers Needed
Saturday, April 24th

Looking for a way to volunteer and serve others in our community? If so, check out this opportunity to help Operation Food Search with the April Showers collection on Saturday, April 24th. Volunteers (ages 18+) are needed to receive and pack items at donation drop-off sites. Visit wgpc.org/get-involved for a link to learn more.

Plenty of Seeds to Share!

All are welcome to join in a new project to benefit pollinators – a seed sharing initiative at WGPC! There is a box on the table in the main hallway across from the library with packets of pollinator-friendly native plant seeds, collected and shared by members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee. If you have a spot in your garden for some new native plants then stop by and pick up some seeds to get started! Later this spring look for annual milkweed seeds to support the beloved Monarch butterfly. If you are a gardener who saves seeds and has some to share, contact Beth Kazlauskas at bok@wgpc.org for details!