

*Easter Morning* by He Qi



*The Empty Tomb*, author unknown

Our Service of Worship for April 17, 2022

# EASTER SUNDAY

Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Cincinnati, OH

## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude:** “*Trumpet Tune in G*”—Jeremy J. Bankston

Kieran McNamara, trumpet and Heather MacPhail, organ

[*During the Prelude, you are invited to take a moment to prepare for worship.*]

### Ring of the Tower Bell

**Choral Introit:** “*Easter Proclamation*”—John Ferguson

### \* Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

May the Risen Lord be with you all!

**And also with you.**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

**His faithful loves endures forever!**

The stone rejected by the builders has now become the cornerstone.

**This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous to see!**

The Lord is our strength and our song; he has become our victory!

**You are our God, and we will praise you and exalt you.**

You have turned our mourning into dancing!

**O Lord, our Lord, we will give thanks to you forever!**

Shout joyful praises to God, all the earth! Sing about the glory of his name!

**Everything on earth will worship you, and sing your praises.**

Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he does for his people!

**He has won a mighty victory by his power and holiness.**

This is the day the Lord has made!

**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen indeed!**

### Opening Prayer—Lighting the Paschal (Easter) Candle



\* **Hymn No. 123:** “*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*”

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
Praise him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!



## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **Gospel Reading:** *Luke 24:1-12—The Resurrection of Jesus*

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

<sup>5</sup> The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

<sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

#### **Sermon:** “*The Wisdom of Easter*”

## MOMENT FOR MEDITATION

How are we then to be Easter people? How are we able to be transformed? How can we be full of new life? Maybe the answer is simpler than we think it is. Maybe it all comes down to Love, deep Love—a Love like Jesus showed us. A love whose seeds are planted throughout Jesus’ life and bear ultimate fruit in the Resurrection experience that continues on even until today.

This world of ours today seems to need these Easter seeds of Resurrected Life more than ever. This world of ours needs to meet the risen Christ. Can we consciously radiate love and joy to all beings? I say yes we can. We are all part of the resurrected Christ. We may not experience that reality in its fullness while here on this earthly plain, but we do catch glimpses of it.

~ Sr. Diane Przyborowski

We humans have the tendency to grip happiness and positivity the moment it peeps out of the ground. For good reason; we all want to look forward to something. Our permanent state is fragile with the capacity to be broken. Pain and exhaustion cannot be ticked off like another task on the ‘to do’ list. Adopt Leonard Cohen’s thought: we’re all full of cracks, that’s how the light gets in.

C. S. Lewis writes in *The Four Loves*: “Man approaches God most nearly when he is in one sense least like God.” The embodiment of that couldn’t be much more evident than in the nailing of a human to a make-shift wooden cross at Golgotha – meaning “skull”. Some years I’ve sensed the sigh of relief amongst some Christians on Easter Sunday when Resurrection is celebrated and the weight of torture is behind, almost to the point of “let’s forget all that nasty stuff.” But that’s not reality and nor is it particularly helpful for those still on crosses. R.S. Thomas reminds us: “When we are weak, we are strong. When our eyes close on the world, then somewhere within us the bush burns. When we are poor and aware of the inadequacy of our table, it is to that uninvited the guest comes.”

Easter is a short period of time when all of life’s long spectrum of experience is encapsulated – the darkest and most painful of experiences take place and can remain with us, while simultaneously hope and light filter through. A theme expressed so beautifully by Annie Dillard, alluding to that dark Golgotha as being also home to hope, in *Pilgrim At Tinker Creek*: “Cruelty is a mystery...But if we describe a world to compass these things...then we bump against another mystery: the inrush of power and light, the canary that sings on the skull.”

~ Anna Wheeler, Theos Think Tank

## 2022 EASTER FLOWERS

Given to *The Glory of God* by: Jim and Susan Greenlee

### Are Given by:

The Chancel Choir & Chancel Bells  
All of the Hedrick Children  
The Hedrick Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren  
Linda Gardner  
Rhonda Boddy  
Dan & Kristi Reed  
Denny & Beth Richmond

### Are given by:

Marc & Mary Beth Baverman  
  
Linda Gardner  
Susan & Jim Greenlee  
Diane Heilmann  
Phyllis Jefferies  
Lynn Lanman & Elizabeth Durrell  
  
Julie Lawson  
Ruth Mayo  
Andy & Jayne Patton  
Wally Pearson  
Jeri & John Rathkamp  
Holly Scheper  
Bill Seitz  
  
Larry & Jan Tepe

### In Honor of:

Heather MacPhail, Diane Heilman  
Anna Hedrick  
Anna Hedrick  
My Family  
My Family  
Dom & Simon Reed  
Our grandchildren

### In memory of:

Bill & LaVerne Seitz,  
Charlie Baverman  
Family members  
Our Family  
Marion & Louis Heilmann  
Jerry Jefferies  
Jim & Ginny Newcomer, parents  
Bob & Dorothy Greiser, friends  
The Lawson & Severin families  
Ruben Mayo  
Ann Patton, MD  
Marion Pearson  
Our Parents  
My Parents  
Bill & LaVerne Seitz, parents  
Bill & Elvira Seitz, grandparents  
Our Parents



## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### The Sacrament of Baptism

**Opening/Presentation:** Dorothea Lynn Ulrich, daughter of Michael and Brittany Ulrich

\* **Profession of Faith**—The Apostles Creed (*unison*)

**ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving Over the Water**

**The Baptism/Laying On of Hands**

**Welcome**

### Invitation to Offering

*[No offering will be collected. Please place your offerings in the baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity—now and always!]*

### Offertory Prayer (*Unison*)

**Gracious God, we come abounding with joy, transformed by your love. Through Christ you have made us free to give you praise and thanksgiving. We know that even the smallest act of kindness, or generosity can have significance well beyond all expectations. With that faith, we rise. With that faith, we are resurrected into new life. With that faith, we give freely and joyfully—to bear witness to, and to inspire, a spirit of resurrection, in ourselves and others. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Offertory Anthem:** “*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*”—Michael Burkhardt  
Chancel Choir with Kieran McNamara, trumpet

### The Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**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.**

## BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

### \* Hymn No. 118: "The Day of Resurrection!"

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth the song begin,  
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.



### Charge and Benediction

**Choral Response:** "Hallelujah Chorus"—G. F. Handel

All are invited to sing with the Choir!

**Postlude:** "Toccata" from Symphony No. 5—Widor

\* Where indicated (\*), those who are able are invited to stand.

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**AS OUR WORSHIP SERVICE ENDS,  
OUR MINISTRY OF SERVICE BEGINS  
IN THE NAME OF THE RISEN CHRIST**

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### Leading Worship This Morning:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi, *Pastor*

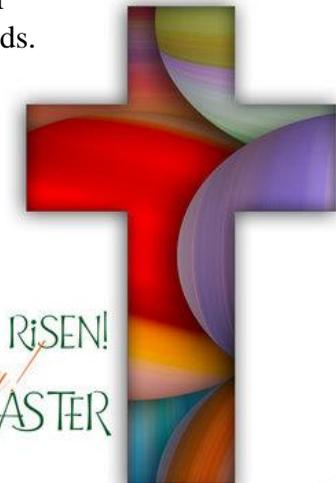
Heather MacPhail, *Organist/Director of Music Ministries*

Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- † April West-Fed Food Pantry needs: Spaghetti/Pasta noodles and Sauce
- † It's time to register to volunteer for the **PW Spring FUNdraiser**, which will be again entail rolling posters for participants, on Thursday, April 28th, from 1-4pm at the Duke Energy Convention Center. Please see Beth Richmond if you have any questions.
- † **"Music After Easter"** on Sunday, April 24, 2:30 p.m. Plan to come to the Concert Series performance as our very own Heather MacPhail offers "Joy in Music," with selections featuring our mighty organ, one of the finest in Cincinnati! Soft to loud, string sounds, brass sounds—this program has it all—including everyone's favorite reed sound from the back (Antiphonal)! Please support our Music Ministry and enjoy the offering of music on the King of Instruments! It is free—bring friends!
- † Prayers are requested for:
  - ♥ Joe Dearwester, recovering from knee replacement surgery.
  - ♥ Evan Austin, a little boy in NH with DIPG. He's in a wheelchair and hospice has been contacted.
  - ♥ Cathie and Larry DeFazio, dealing with melanoma and a torn rotator cuff.
  - ♥ The people and leaders of the Ukraine and Russia.
  - ♥ Dominic, a teen-aged friend of the Zorn's, undergoing open heart surgery.
  - ♥ Susie, a friend of the Kochheisers, undergoing chemotherapy.
  - ♥ Kathy Kiefer, who has been hospitalized with kidney issues.
  - ♥ Linda Kugele who continues to deal with breathing issues.
  - ♥ Betsy Forte, Chancie Brown's sister
  - ♥ Our homebound members and friends.
  - ♥ The discernment team.
  - ♥ The members of our Session.



HAPPY EASTER