

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

We Gather in God's Name...

Prayer of Preparation for Worship

{for silent prayer before starting the worship playlist or conference call}

Glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him. Grant that we who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.¹ AMEN.

Announcements and Greeting

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 118, *NRSV*; choose one person to lead)

One: The Lord is our strength and our might; he has become our salvation.

All: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous.

One: I thank Him that he has answered us and has become our salvation.

All: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

One: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"

Litany for Easter²

...we pray to you:

Hear us, Lord of glory.

Call to Confession (led by one)

The Gospel of John notes the words of Jesus in "no one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."³ But this is exactly

what our Lord did for each of us that we might be forgiven and have everlasting life if we place our belief and trust in him. In whom could we more greatly trust with our requests for forgiveness? Let us pray.

Silent Prayer of Confession (about 30 seconds)

Corporate Prayer of Confession (in unison)

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. 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.⁴ AMEN.

Assurance of Pardon (led by one)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.⁵ AMEN.

The Passing of the Peace (You may say: "The peace of Christ be with you." and respond: "And also with you.")

...to Proclaim God's Word

First Reading

Acts 10:34-43 <https://bit.ly/3aTSTCu>

{Pick someone in your household to read this scripture passage.}

Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:1-4 <https://bit.ly/2ViXFCR>

{Pick another person, if possible, in your household to read this scripture passage.}

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18 <https://bit.ly/2UWFeoC>

Sermon

"A Victorious God Rev. Andy Smothers
Alongside and Despite Humanity"

Anthem **“In the Darkness of the Morning”**
{Feel free to use this anthem as a time of reflection.}

Congregational Prayer and Lord’s Prayer
{I invite you to pray as a household offering your various praises, thanksgivings, and requests to God aloud. Close with 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.

...to Give Thanks to God...

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*in unison*)
God of mercy and grace, you have walked with a disobedient people through the history of humanity. Despite, this you remain faithful and at work — working to continue to reconcile a people who turn their back on you time and time again. Thank you for your faithful pursuit. Thank you that you allow us to go our way but welcome us back as we find again the true faith and true trust you have offered us as a free gift. Father, we thank you, particularly, that you decided to come and dwell with humanity on earth — that through our Lord Jesus you would teach and heal and model how we should, also, serve you and the people around us. Thank you that you suffered death so that we might enjoy eternal life. Have your scriptures continue to testify the same to us that we might be fully sanctified and that we might serve alongside you in bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. For gifts the church receives in the coming week, we thank you for enabling us to give and ask that the church use those to your glory. In the name of the one who lives and reigns with you in heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

...and to Be Sent in God’s Name.

Closing Hymn “Thine Is the Glory”

Charge and Benediction

Response “Be Not Afraid”
Text: Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!

First Presbyterian Church



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Interim Pastor: Rev. Andrew Smothers
Clerk of Session: Marla Bruner
Church Secretary: Wendi Dayrider

Join the online worship playlist from Sunday at 11am at <https://www.conradfirstpres.org/covid-19-worship>. Alternatively, you can listen to the Gospel lesson and sermon at 11:30 am on Sunday by calling (978) 990-5110 and using access code 749966# when prompted. Make sure to include the # key on your phone.

¹ *Book of Common Worship*, 323.

² *Book of Common Worship*, 316-317.

³ John 15:13, *NRSV*.

⁴ *Book of Common Worship*, 318.

⁵ *Book of Common Worship*, 56-57.