



EASTER DAY

9 APRIL 2023

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA

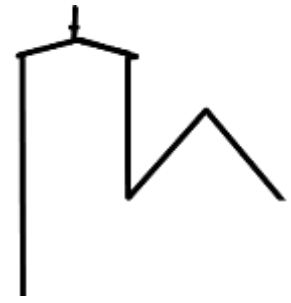
A Presbyterian Church, USA in the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

1420 West Moss Avenue + + + Peoria, Illinois 61606

www.westminsterpeoria.org

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



EASTER DAY

9 April 2023

Ten O'clock

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

Fanfare for Organ

Ronald Arnatt

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

One: *Christ is risen!*

All: **Christ is risen indeed!**

One: *Christ is risen!*

All: **Christ is risen indeed!** (*Louder*)

One: *Christ is risen!*

All: **Christ is risen indeed!** (*Shouting!*)

*THE HYMN

Crown with Your Richest Crowns

Diademata

1. Crown with your richest crowns
The Lamb upon the throne
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake my soul and sing
Of Christ who died for you
And to your risen Savior bring
Your thanks for life made new.

3. Crown Christ the truth, the life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
This fallen world to save.
Christ's glories now we sing,
Christ's name we magnify,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

2. Crown Christ whose love has flowed
Down hands and feet and side,
Look past the peak of Calvary's road,
To Christ the glorified.
The sun that lights the sky
Is pale before that sight
At prayer we glimpse then turn the eye
From mysteries so bright.

4. Crown Christ who holds the years,
Embracing space and time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime:
All hail, redeemer, hail!
For you have died for me
Our praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1851; Thomas H. Troegger, 1993
Music: George Job Elvey, 1868

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

*ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

Ode to Joy

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed
In the desert all-surrounding, see a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Laudate Dominum

Elizabeth Poston

O PRAISE God in his holiness: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp. Praise him in the cymbals and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe. Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him upon the loud cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath: praise the Lord.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord ... Thanks be to God

***THE PSALTER:**

Psalm 118

Festal Song

1. Open the righteous gates,
That I may enter them;
"This is the gateway of the Lord,
The just may now come in."

2. You answered me in need,
And are my health alone;
The stone the builders cast aside
Is now the cornerstone.

3. This is the Lord's own work,
And marvelous to see,
The Lord has acted on this day,
We praise his victory.

Text: from: *A New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber
© 1986, The Church Hymnal Corp., New York, (used and reprinted with permission)
Music: William H. Walter, 1894

EPISTLE: Colossians 3:1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your^[a] life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And 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. ³His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead,^[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Word of the Lord ... Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Reading together*)

from *I Corinthians 15*

This is the good news which we received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve and to many faithful witnesses. We believe he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Lord be with you. ... And also with you.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

This Is the Day

Harold W. Friedell

The Westminster Choir; David Kortemeier, baritone

Alleluia! Alleluia! This, this is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. All hail, all hail to God's Immortal Son. Who broke the chains of mortal time and space, Who hath from death eternal triumph won. And freed from lasting night God's errant race. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulcher wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore. Let me not sleep, the while my Saviour sleeps alone: attend, my soul, That I may make his grief my own. Hold to my lips the cup from which my Saviour drank. I am athirst for sorrow's bitter wine; Place on my brow his diadem of pain, I would be crowned with Godhead's sign. Thus may I fold Within my heart Divinity, Thus may I hold Within my life Infinity. *Why seek ye the living among the dead? Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified. He is not here, but is risen!* Now unto the living Christ be glory, Sing unto the Lord of Life and death. Sing, O heav'ns, sing O earth, Hosanna to the Most High, Angels and hierarchies and powers, souls of the righteous sing to God! Communion of Saints in earth and heaven, All ye blessed of God, Sing Alleluia to his Name forever! Alleluia! Glory, Praise, Honour, Blessing. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia!!!

... text by Leonard Young

SEALING THE WORD

*At the time of the **DISTRIBUTION OF THE EUCHARIST**, worshipers are invited to commune coming forward to receive the bread and wine by intinction. Or you may commune with the pre-packaged wafer and wine that was available as you entered the church. Those worshipping at home via live-streaming, we invite you to find a piece of bread and some wine or juice and join us in the Sacrament. Christ himself used food that was at hand following the Passover Meal to institute the first Eucharist. Christians of any age or church affiliation are welcome at Christ's table, where Christ himself is the host.*

INVITATION

One: *The Lord be with you.*

All: **And also with you.**

One: *Lift up your hearts.*

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

SANCTUS

Easter Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross,
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!

COMMUNION PRAYER CONTINUES ...*therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured: Alleluia!
We like Christ shall thus arise, Alleluia!
When he greets us in the sky. Alleluia!

INTERCESSIONS AND SUPPLICATIONS AND CONSECRATION

(... *In your mercy ... Lord hear our prayer*)

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

Sing we to our God above: Alleluia!
Praise eternal as Christ's love Alleluia!
Praise God all you heavenly hosts, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to you by all be given, Alleluia!
You we greet, God's own adored, Alleluia!
Come now! Resurrected Lord! Alleluia!

THE LORD'S PRAYER [*praying together*]

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.

These are holy things, to keep us holy. Gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us keep the feast. ALLELUIA!

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MUSIC

The Call from 'Five Mystical Songs'
David Kortemeier, baritone

Ralph Vaughan Williams

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

One: *Bless the Lord, O my soul;*

All: **And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

One: *Bless the Lord, O my soul!*

All: **And forget not all God's benefits.**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

Angels Join to Tell the Story

Lauda Anima

Angels join to tell the story
Death defeated, life restored!
Now behold the king of glory,
Jesus Christ the living Lord!
Alleluia Alleluia!
Praises to our risen Lord!

Let your alleluias thunder,
Shout your praises to the skies
Angels watch in solemn wonder
See the Son of God arise.
Alleluia Alleluia!
Praises to our risen Lord!

Text: Author unknown
Music: John Goss, 1869

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Hallelujah!

G.F. Handel

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones, *Pastor*
Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster*
The Westminster Choir
Elder Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

THE EASTER LITURGY at Westminster Church is different from other weekly services. The various congregational responses are replaced with verses of Easter hymns. This allows our visitors as well as our regular congregation the ability to completely participate in all of the service. It also highlights the importance of this day above all others in the Christian year.

THE CHORAL MUSIC TODAY is a mixture of English and American anthems. We open with a setting of Psalm 150 (Laudate Dominum) set by English composer, Elizabeth Poston in the mid-twentieth century. The major musical offering is the epic anthem, "This Is the Day" by American composer, Harold Friedell, who wrote it for his parish, St. Bartholomew's Church on Park Avenue, New York City in 1956. After a pause of several years because of Covid, we resume using Handel's magnificent "Hallelujah Chorus" to end the celebration. Copies of the music are available in the Narthex. We invite you to sing along *from your pew*.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR is funded, in part, by a grant from the Gretchen R. Iben Endowment for the Arts.

THE CHOIR: Laurel Cramer, Denise Clark-Jones, Shawn Strauss (sopranos); Kate Kortemeier, alto; Douglas McQueen, Aaron Roos (tenors) and Matthew Winkler and David Kortemeier, bass.

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OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS

*We do not presume to come to this thy Table,
O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much
as to gather up the crumbs
under thy Table.
But thou art the same Lord,
whose property is always to have mercy:
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.*

... The Anglican Prayer Book