



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Third Sunday of Easter
18 April 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Récit de Nazard

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Caroline Haynor

Leader: The bread of life opens our eyes.
People: **The word of life opens our ears.**
Leader: The Risen One shows us God's own brokenness,
People: **and by those wounds we are healed.**
Leader: Peace be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

***Hymn**

Thine is the Glory

Judas Maccabeus

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain: Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. *Refrain*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

O God, we celebrate the new life you have given us. We have experienced broken lives made whole, old wounds of alienation healed, and tired spirits rejuvenated with new vision. We are grateful for the joy and wonder placed before us. Yet there are times when doubt has overcome hope, cynicism has replaced dedication, the world's values have captured us more than yours. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to let go of the past and move joyfully into a future of justice and love. Hear now our silent prayers of confession:

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

***Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Response Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

*Children pre-K through grade 5 depart with Mrs. Sherrick for Sunday School.
Parents are invited to meet their children in Parish Hall after worship.*

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 4

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.
² How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?
³ But know that God has set apart the faithful for God's self;
God hears when I call to God.
⁴ When you are disturbed, do not sin;
ponder it on your beds, and be silent.
⁵ Offer right sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord.
⁶ There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"
⁷ You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.
⁸ I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. Amen.

Music

Rigaudon

André Campra

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36-48

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, Jesus showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to

you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. Amen.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Disbelieving Joy Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Text: While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering...
Luke 24:41a

Music Basse de Cromorne Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

***Affirmation of Faith** *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the broken hearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the Gospel.

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Church at Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Soloist: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

The Lord's Prayer

Introduction to the Offering

***Offertory Response** Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication** Holy and Loving God, we give thanks for the joy of giving our gifts and ourselves. We offer to you only a portion of what you have given us. All that we have is from your creative hand. May others find refreshment, wholeness and joy through this sharing in the name of our Risen Christ. Amen.

***Hymn** Christ is Alive *Truro*

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Caprice sur les Grands Jeux Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

() The congregation is invited to stand.*

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life

Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

Karen Sherrick, Director for Children's Ministry

Caroline Haynor, Liturgist and Youth Assistant in Sunday School

Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts

Mike Tungett, Trumpeter Lyle VanDeventer, Bass

Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers

Judy Ridinger, Greeter

Nathaniel Brower, Bob Leffler, Bob Stuart, Ushers

Mary Ray and Alan Schuermann, Safety Team