

# St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

APRIL 12, 2020

EASTER SUNDAY

## WELCOME

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Flourish for an Occasion*

Noel Rawsthorne

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

In this place, we recognize the wilderness in the world.

**In this place, we trust that God is near.**

In this place, we hold on to hope.

**In this place, we hold on to each other.**

In this place, we sing, "Alleluia!"

**In this place, we trust that love is stronger than hate.**

So in this place, we celebrate.

**In this place, we sing.**

In this place, we trust that nothing can separate us from God's love.

**Let us worship God!**

## HYMN

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

EASTER HYMN

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!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!

Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!

Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of new life, We come to you confessing that we are guilty of creating emotional wilderness spaces— Spaces of raised voices and slamming doors, Of judgments passed and accusations cast, Of cold shoulders and deep regret. We create these spaces when we feel threatened, afraid, or ashamed, Which is far too often given the promises you make to us. So draw us back to the beginning—where you created and it was good. Smooth over our wilderness scars and fill our veins with your love; For like the disciples on that Easter morning, we are running toward you.**

*Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession*

## CHORAL PETITION

*Since By Man Came Death*

G. F. Handel

**JOYFUL RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

ALLELUIA #1

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

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen.**

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

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Phyllis Bearden

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 46

**GOSPEL READING**

John 20:1-18

**CHILDREN'S LESSON**

**SERMON**

*The Wilderness is the Birthplace of Joy* Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

**HYMN**

*This Easter Celebration*

AURELIA

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.  
We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.  
We're distant from our neighbors — from worship leaders, too.  
No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.  
O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day?  
With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place  
We ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room  
But from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.  
Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see —  
Who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:  
Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.  
Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!  
Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be  
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.  
In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,  
We live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND WORLD**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory Anthem**

*Worthy Is the Lamb that Was Slain*

G. F. Handel

**Prayer of Dedication**

**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.

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.

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.

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

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION****BENEDICTION IN MUSIC***Hallelujah*

G. F. Handel



ALLELUIA is associated with two of the great holy days of the church - Christmas and Easter. It is because of this close tie with Jesus's coming and His resurrection that it is the tradition in some churches to omit the use of the word Alleluia in both liturgy and song during the penitential seasons which precede these holidays. (Advent and Lent). With the joyous antiphon announcing the risen Savior which we will share together in this morning's worship, Alleluia returns to the Christian's language of celebration and praise.

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY, indeed the consummate Easter Hymn, was originally a Latin hymn dating from the fourteenth century and whose author(s) is unknown. The fourth verse in our hymnal was written by Charles Wesley and published in 1740. The tune first appeared in the collection of hymns entitled *Lyra Davidica*. While this collection dates from 1708, the composer is unknown and the entire collection survives in a single engraved copy in the British Museum. It is ironic that neither author nor composer is known for one of the most beloved hymns in Christendom

LENTEN THEME AND LITURGY This Lenten season we are following the theme, "Wilderness" from A Sanctified Art, LLC. A Sanctified Art believes God speaks to us through many mediums and that creativity is an integral part of worship. They create curriculum and worship resources, including the Lenten Devotionals found in the Narthex. The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith are adapted from liturgy written by Sarah Are of A Sanctified Art.