

BEULAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter Day

Sunday, March 31, 2024

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

“Arise to Life”

Edward Broughton

GREETING, WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP and OPENING PRAYER**

This is the day:

**when tears are wiped away;
shattered hearts are mended;
fears are replaced with joy.**

This is the day the Lord:

**rolls away the stone of fear;
throws off death's clothes;
goes ahead of us into God's future.**

This is the day the Lord has made:

**death has no fear for us; sin has lost its power over us;
God opens the tombs of our hearts to fill us with life.**

This is the day – Easter Day!

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

Let us pray:

Very early on that first day you caught chaos unawares, Astounding God: planting grace in a garden, setting love loose on creation, flinging joy into the air. Very early on that first day Jesus, Son of Justice: you staggered sin, throwing its weight off the world; you confounded death, leaving it alone in the grave; you opened the gates of the kingdom, so all could follow you into life. Very early on this first day of the week, while we were washing sleep from our eyes and trying to make sense of our lives, you sang glad songs to us, Scarred Spirit: rolling away fears from our hearts so we can see the Risen Lord. God in Community, Holy in One, very early on this first day of the week, as we do on every day of our lives, we lift our prayers as Jesus has taught us, “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.

***Hymn**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

#232

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On this morning of hallelujahs, we must confess how human we are, Emptier of tombs. We haven't done any great evil, but we have failed to do good when we had the chance. We have not intentionally hurt anyone, nor have we offered healing to the broken. We easily accept the witness of the angel in the tomb, but find it difficult to share this good news with our friends and neighbors. Bring us new life, Dazzling God. Where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation; transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace; forgive us of all the damage we have done, and fill us with the joy of your Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, who gives us new life, we pray.

(Silence is observed.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, our Creator, gives us new life;

Christ, our Redeemer, prepares a Table for us;

Holy Spirit, our Joy, calls us to service.

This is the good news: the tomb is empty,
sin is powerless, death is defeated forever.

**On this very first day, and every day, we walk as God's people,
forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

ANTHEM

“Christ the Lord Is Alive”
(Chancel Choir)

Earlene Rentz

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*(Children are invited to participate in activities at the Playground area
in front of the pulpit for the remainder of the service.)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts us and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's everlasting hope. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

1st Lesson Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

2nd Lesson Acts 10:34-43

3rd Lesson John 20:1-8

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

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Book of Common Worship)

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: 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 first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

*Hymn

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

#248

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The God of every morning be with you.

And also with you.

People of Easter morning, lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the One who has raised Jesus from the grave.

People of Easter's joy, give thanks to the One who raises us to new life.

We sing our hallelujahs to the God of everlasting love.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service. We give ourselves to you and ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom.

May our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING

Call for the Offering

Offertory

*Celebrating God’s Generosity

Hymn #609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds us, your generosity fills us to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ’s behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ’s spirit. Amen.

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn

“Christ Is Alive!”

#246

*CHARGE and BLESSING

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

On this morning, we welcome God's good news for our lives,
and go out to share it with everyone we meet.

Tomorrow morning, we will go with Jesus to serve the world,
to bring healing to the broken, hope for the despairing.

On every morning to come, we will join the Spirit in living the gospel,
**to welcome all who have been abandoned by others,
to speak out for all whose voices are silenced by fears.**

Celebrate this day of days! Rejoice in God, your Savior!

Know the new life gifted through Jesus Christ!

Shout your Alleluia's for all to hear!

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God
our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
be with us all, now and forever. **Amen.**

*POSTLUDE

“Festival Toccata”

Percy Fletcher

Go in Peace

A special word of thanks to all those who helped make this worship service possible.

It is good to be together!

Remember in Prayer

*Susan Rock, Jim & Terri Watson, Ron Vaughn, Suzi Criscoe, Bill Anderson,
Verna Williams, Rev. Don Seeger, Jake Mohn, Jeffrey Schmidt,
and all Service Personnel and their families.*

All those who are Care Givers, and all those affected by tragic world events.

CCLI#20544224 & 20544



Welcome! We warmly greet all who have come to worship God.

We are so glad that you are here. We hope that joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. Here at Beulah our mission is transforming lives through the love of Jesus Christ – that simple and that challenging. We realize we need each other and commit to pray for each other. We reach out in love and compassion to a world in need, and we know we are a work in progress. If you are new to Beulah, we hope you will join us again and consider attending any of our mission, fellowship, and education opportunities. God's peace to you today.

Membership ~ If you are interested in becoming a member or you have any questions about membership, see Pastor Bill or one of the greeters, call the church office at 502-239-3231 or email carol@beulahpres.org.

Learn more by visiting us on our website at www.beulahpres.org, and on our Facebook page at Beulah Presbyterian Church.

Assisting in worship ~ Pastor Bill Owens; Music Director/Accompanist Kim Karchenes; Liturgist Kyle Dreher; Chancel Choir; and Sound Crew, Brent Dellacoletta and Jim Harris.

Virtual Ministry ~ Please follow us on our Website www.beulahpres.org, Facebook, Instagram@beulah_pres, and YouTube to stay up to date on upcoming events, view previous worship services, live stream services, and see what's happening in the life and ministry of Beulah!

Listening Devices ~ The Sanctuary is equipped with Listening Devices for persons with hearing difficulty. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Electronic Devices ~ In the hustle and bustle of getting ourselves ready for church it is easy to forget to turn off our cell phones. We offer this gentle reminder to please power off cell phones and other electronic devices so that the worship service is not disrupted by them.

Large Print Worship Bulletin ~ If you or someone you know needs a large print bulletin of today's service, please ask one of the ushers and they will assist you.



Beulah
PRESBYTERIAN
Church

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156 Years of Faith & Service