

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 11, 2021

GATHERING AND PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!**

PRELUDE:

“Easter Fanfare”

Joseph Bridge

Readying Our Hearts (A time of silent prayer and reflection in preparation for worshipping God together.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is what the Lord says – the One who created the heavens – “I am God!”

People: **The One who fashioned and made the earth declares, “I am the Lord, and there is no other.”**

Leader: The Lord speaks the truth, and what God declares is always right.

People: **Therefore, let us gather together and worship Him. Let us offer our praises to God who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: Let us submit our lives to God, the Great I Am, for there is no God apart from Him, our Savior and our God.

People: **Let us draw near to God with humble hearts for God is God and there is no other!**

INVOCATION

*OPENING SONG: #289 “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

**Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim for the world’s salvation bled –
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient powers of evil in confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried: now He lives for every more,
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer, whom we worship and adore.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen! Set your hearts on things above;
There in all the Father’s glory lives and reigns our King of love;
Hear the word of peace He brings us, see His wounded hands and side!
Now let every wrong be ended, every sin be crucified.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior who has gained the victory;**

**Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia to the Triune Majesty!**

SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison prayer after silent confession)

Holy and merciful God, in Your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease You. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in Your light, and walk in Your ways. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (from 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57)

Leader: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, but Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. If anyone is in Christ that person becomes a new creation, the old is gone and the new has come. Therefore, by the Grace of God, in Christ we are forgiven.

***All:** (*Gloria Patri*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:24-29

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

CHOIR ANTHEM:

“Glorious Risen Christ”
Choir

Burke/Larson

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 1:1-6

Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither –
whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “Two Roads – Two Destinations”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD THROUGH AFFIRMATION, OFFERING, AND PRAYER

*SONG OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE: #502 “Be Thou My Vision”

**Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art –
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word,
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, what ever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AND OFFERING

Invitation

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Elements and the Giving of Our Offering

“We You There?/Crown Him”

arr. Mark Hayes

(For those joining with us in the Sanctuary this morning, you are invited, as you come forward to receive the Communion Elements, and as you feel so led, to place your offering in one of the plates up front. For those unable to be with us physically, you are encouraged to partake of the elements in your home at this time. Also, as you are able, we invite you to set aside your offering as an act of personal dedication at this time, either to be mailed in, dropped off at the church, or brought in when you are able to join us in worship. Let this time be one of receiving from and offering yourself up to our Lord -- to the praise of His holy name.)

Prayer of Commitment

*Sung Response (Doxology)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

BRINGING OUR WORSHIP INTO OUR WORLD

*CLOSING SONG: #298 "The Day of Resurrection"

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see a right
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
And, listening to His accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own "all hail" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!
The world resound in triumph, and all that is there-in;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end.**

*BENEDICTION (from Hebrews 13:20-21)

May the God of peace -- who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant -- equip you with everything good, that you may do God's will, working in you what is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE:

"Victory in Jesus"

arr. Marilyn Arison

Memory verses:

**"For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction."**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Hope 7 has remained open to serve the Albia community of Troy, and beyond, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and our faith family continues to support their work. It has been hard to keep up our regular collections as the church was closed for a time and even now attendance is low, but Hope 7 still needs our help. You are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food items, toiletries and other hygiene items either at Third Church (and we will get the items to Hope 7), or at Hope 7 directly (M-W-Th 9:30-11:45), or call Sue Laz (518-892-4042) or John McAuley (518-894-7771) to arrange for a pick-up.
2. We will continue to collect clothes for the Capital City Rescue Mission (CCRM). You may bring your items to the church or call Sue Laz to see about having someone pick them up for you. And, of course, if you wish you can bring your items directly to the CCRM.
3. We will **resume** our Wednesday evening Bible study **this Wednesday, April 14th**, at **6:45pm** via Zoom. To join the study go to the Zoom link below: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84268790436>. The meeting ID is: 842 6879 0436. Also note that adult Sunday school will resume on **April 18th** at 9:15am (in person only). I hope many will join us as we resume our study of Systematic Theology. Since it has been over a year since we last met the first few classes will be times of review, and so if you are new to Sunday school that would be a great time to begin with us.
4. Fellowship Hour has resumed. We will follow all safety protocols that were in place last year when we were able to gather for a time of fellowship following worship. Our safety standards include that face masks be worn unless you are eating or drinking. Hand sanitizer will be available. All food items will be individually prepackaged to ensure everyone's well-being, and bottled water and juice will be available as well. We are limiting seating to four people per table except in the case for families and are asking everyone to stay clear of the kitchen area and to remain in Post Memorial Hall (or possibly outside, weather permitting) during that time.
5. Spring Mission Offering, between now and Pentecost Sunday (May 23rd) we will receive a special mission offering. Funds received will go to support Capital City Rescue Mission and to support Dan McAuley as he continues his studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Envelopes for donations available in the narthex. Checks should be made payable to "Third Presbyterian Church".
6. Craft Supplies for Capital City Rescue Mission, the Women's and Children's shelter at the Mission is looking to stock an arts and crafts room for the children. They could use Elmer's glue sticks, Elmer's liquid glue, Craft or Tacky glue, chalk, dry erase markers, Crayola crayons, washable tempera paint (any color), modeling clay, and washable markers. Donations can be placed in the box in the narthex.