



DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hallelujah!



Celebration of Worship

Sunday, April 4, 2021,

Easter Sunday

Featuring Cantata 29: Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir

“We thank you, God, we thank you,” by J.S. Bach

[Click Here to Listen](#)

Prelude

Sinfonia

J.S. Bach

Jason Cloen, organ soloist

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Deborah Fae Swift

Chime

Introit

Chorus: Wir danken dir, Gott

J.S. Bach

“We give you thanks, God, we give you thanks and proclaim your wonders.”

Choir I

Call to Worship

Becky Wiggins

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed!

Such were the early passwords of Christians meeting – whether on the road or at the beginning of worship.

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed!

With these few, simple words, they knew each other.

They claimed each other.

Words that could cost them their lives, we now say in the safety of our homes and our churches.

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed!

Why do you look for the living among the dead? And she thought him to be the gardener. Through this one act, we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God – not even death itself.

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed!

Let us come and worship the ever-living God – the Risen Christ – on this glorious morning that changes everything.

Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love, Alleluia!

2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Christ, who slumbered in the grave, Alleluia!
Is exalted now to save! Alleluia!

3. "Jesus Christ is risen today," Alleluia!
All creation, join to say! Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high! Alleluia!
Sing, O heav'ns, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Text: Lyra Davidica, Charles Wesley, Michael Weisse
Arrangement by Craig Phillips, choir II

Centering Prayer

Becky Wiggins

Blazing Son-Burst of Holy Radiance:

The cross and the stone have tried their best ...

The Roman government did all it could ...

But nothing can stop your message of justice, reconciliation and peace.

Your love cannot be contained. Through you, we know that even death cannot separate us from your love.

That knowledge frees us to be in relationship with you, our Creator God.
By resurrecting Jesus, you changed everything!
Let us live our lives with renewed commitment to value ourselves and each other
as your children, ambassadors of the Risen Christ, and purveyors of your Holy
Hope. Send your Spirit to us and wrap us in your shimmering Grace, we ask.
Amen.

Music for Reflection Aria: Halleluja, Stärk und Macht J.S. Bach
*"Hallelujah, power and strength be to the name of the most high.
Zion is still God's city, where God dwells,
Where God remembers with our offspring God's covenant with our ancestors."*
Jeffrey Thompson, tenor, Ela Kodzas, violin

Scripture Reading John 20:1-18 (MSG) Becky Wiggins
From *The Message* translation

Here ends our reading on this day that defines us as Christians.
Glory be to you, O God, for the Resurrection of your Son, Jesus.

Music for Reflection Recitative: Gott lob! Es geht uns wohl! J.S. Bach
*"God be praised! It is well for us!
God is our confidence, God's protection, comfort, and light
Shields the city and the buildings of government,
God's wings hold the walls secure.
God blesses us everywhere.
Faithfulness, which kisses peace,
must for ever and ever greet righteousness.
Where is there such a people as we,
to whom God is so near and so gracious?"*
Alan Jones, bass

Aria: Gedenk an uns mit deiner Liebe
*"Think of us with your love, enclose us with your grace!
Bless those in positions of leadership, who lead, protect, and guide us,
And bless those who are in their care.*
Juli Elliot, soprano, Alyssa Pracht, oboe

Reflection

"A Liminal State of Mind"

Rev. Swift

Invitation to the Offering*

Offertory Anthem

Recitative: Vergiss es ferner nicht

J.S. Bach

"For the future, do not forget to bestow your goodness on us:

And so our land, full of your honor, will praise you

With offerings and thanksgiving, and the people will say:

Amen!

Aria: Halleluja, Stärk und Macht

"Hallelujah, power and strength be to the name of the most high."

Jessica Best, alto

Doxology

The Day of Resurrection

LANCASHIRE

(Music may be found at the end of the bulletin)

Arrangement by John S. Dixon, choir II

* We gratefully receive your offerings through the mail to the church office:
121 N. Fitzhugh St, 14614, Attn: Penny Crudup.

Holy Communion

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. We have come here today, as people have come for more than twenty centuries, on the Day of Resurrection, to be witness to the Mystery which is at the heart of that which we believe.

May the Resurrection Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up, and are exceedingly glad.

We have much to give thanks for, my sisters and brothers.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, Creator of the Universe who has done this mighty act.

You established your church to testify to the power of Christ's resurrection, a people of one heart and soul, holding everything in common, sharing their abundance with the poor, and caring for each other (Acts 4:32-35).

You believe in us to be your presence in the world;
We believe in you to supply our every need.

You are the creator of the liminal space between worlds;
We believe you are the Source of all that is – seen and unseen – portal as well as destination.

You came as one of us to live as we live, sorrow as we sorrow, and celebrate as we celebrate;
We believe, Jesus, that you are God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, birthed from the Holy, and holy yourself.

In accordance with the Scriptures, your life on earth ended,
Yet we believe you are alive in us. We are your hands and feet, your smiles and hugs, your passion for justice, and your expansive welcome to all in the world.

And so, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place – past, present, and yet to be – who claim the Mystery of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these, your gifts of bread and grape, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be part of ... our ongoing communion with you, our Risen Christ.

By your Spirit, unite us with Jesus and with your church in all the world. Make our joy complete! Lead us to walk in the light of New Life and Resurrection Hope.

Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit 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 Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Post-Communion Prayer

O Spirit of Resurrection and New Life:

Lead us to be your Caring Community, your Church, embodying your values that reach out and include others. Remind us of your Love and your teachings as we become the Body of Christ – your healing presence in a broken and fractured world. On this Easter morning, remind us that we are your Resurrection People every day. Through you, we bring hope and possibility to a world mired in despair, frozen by fear, and struggling to understand. Live through us, O Risen Christ, for you are the Hope of the World and the Anthem of our Lives. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

LLANFAIR

(Verses 1,2, and 4, Music may be found at the end of the bulletin)

Arrangement by Jeremy J. Bankson, choir II

Benediction

Rev. Swift

Postlude

Chorale: Sei Lob und Preis mit Ehren

J.S. Bach

"Glory and praise with honor be to God the Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit!

You want to increase in us what you have promised out of grace,

So that we may firmly trust in you, rely completely on you,

In our hearts build on you, so that our heart, courage, and mind

may depend on you for comfort;

Therefore we now sing:

Amen! We shall succeed, we believe from the bottom of our hearts."

Choir I

Thank you to . . .

Officiants: Rev. Deb Swift, and Becky Wiggins

Choir I: Juli Elliot, Hannah Stokes, Joan Sussman, Kathryn Borden, Carol Kerner,
Emmalouise St. Amand, Mark Darling, Ben Magruder, Jeffrey Thompson,
John DeHority, Alan Jones, Rob Kerner

Choir II: Juli Elliot, Caitlin Glastonbury, Joan Sussman, Anna Martin,
Emmalouise St. Amand, Brenda Tremblay, Mark Darling, Jacob Hunter,
Ben Magruder, Rob Brown, Alan Jones, Gavin Tremblay.

Soloists: Jeffrey Thomson, tenor, Alan Jones, bass, Juli Elliot, soprano, Jessica Ann Best, alto

Orchestra: Herbert Smith, Patrick Corvington, and Roy Smith, trumpets,
Jillian Pritchard, timpani, Alyssa Pracht, oboe,
Ela Kodzas and Chihiro Kakishima, violins, Lucinda Gebler, viola,
Owen Cummings, cello, Lee Wright, harpsichord, Jason Cloen, organ

Our special Easter Music this morning was made possible in part
by generous gifts to the Downtown Church music fund.

Your support is welcome throughout the year.

Please indicate "music fund" in the memo line of your donation.

Sound Engineers: Donald Fairman, David McDowell,
Ben Magruder (Choral Music)

Website integration: Donald Fairman

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233 The Day of Resurrection!

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

245 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
 4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to you by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Je - sus died, our souls to save,
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Originally printed as eleven four-line stanzas without alleluias, this Easter text was written during the first year following the author's life-changing conversion experience, yet it already shows his enduring emphasis on the theme of love. This lively Welsh tune sets it well.

The Downtown Church Staff

The Rev. Deborah Fae Swift,
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Joan Mackey and Carol Snook, Co-Moderators of Deacons

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