



DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“As the sun rises in the morning. . .

God Is Present with Us.”

Celebration of Worship

Sunday, April 18, 2021,

Third Sunday of Easter

[Click Here to Listen](#)

Prelude

Alleluia

Ralph Manuel

Downtown Church Chancel Choir

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Deborah Fae Swift

Chime

Introit

Alleluia

Deanna Witkowski

Please join in singing: "Alleluia!"

Call to Worship

Kim McConnell

As the sun rises in the morning,
As the cool breeze ushers in the evening,
As the heat of the noonday sun spreads across the land:
God is present with us.

God has set this day before us,
A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.
God has set our lives before us,
A span of years in which we love, and learn, and serve.

God has set God's seal upon our hearts,
So that we might live fully in deep love.
Send your Spirit to be with us now, we ask.
We come to be with you, to make this space holy, filled with
your wonder and Mystery.
We worship you, oh living and loving God.

Hymn

Christ Is Alive!
(Music may be found at the end of the bulletin)

TRURO

Centering Prayer

Kim McConnell

Jesus, with joyous faith, your followers greet one another, declaring, "He is risen!" and affirming, "He is risen indeed!" When we let go of fear, we say *yes* to our own resurrection experiences of you. Guided by the resurrecting power of the Christ spirit within us, we are set free from the tomb of lack and limitation. We follow you into the light of new awareness, a new dimension of life. You, oh Christ, are risen in each one of us!
Now and forever more. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36-49
From *The Message* version

Kim McConnell

Here ends the Gospel reading.
May the Spirit bless this to our understanding.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Because You Live, O Christ

VRUECHTEN

1. Because You live, O Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower;
The darkness of the tomb is flooded with Your resurrection power.
Ref: The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Chrsit has risen, has risen, has risen,
Has risen!
2. Because You live, O Christ, the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;
Our cages of despair no longer keep us closed and life-denying. Ref.
3. Because You live, O Christ, the rainbow of Your peace will span creation,
The colors of Your love will draw all humankind to adoration. Ref.

Reflection

"Witness to the Resurrection"

Rev. Swift

Invitation to the Offering*

Offertory Anthem

Bright Morning Stars

Traditional Appalachian
Arr. Lee Wright

"Bright morning stars are rising, day is a-breakin' in-a-my soul.
Where are our dear sisters? They are up on the hilltop a-shoutin.'
Where are our dear neighbors? They are down in the valley a-prayin.'
Where are our dear brothers? They are planting love and kindness.
Where are our dear children? They are sowing seeds of gladness.
Bright morning stars are rising, day is a-breakin' in-a-my soul."

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Let songs rise up from earth below;
Let stars and galaxies enthrone;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.**

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

Prayers for Healing and Transformation

Rev. Swift

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.**

Closing Hymn

Christ Is Risen, Shout Hosannah
(Music may be found at the end of the bulletin)

HYMN TO JOY

Benediction

Rev. Swift

Postlude

Improvisation on "Because You Live, O Christ"

Lee Wright, organ,
Alan Jones, Anna Martin, Kim McConnell, and Deb Swift, percussion

Thank you to . . .

Participants: Rev. Deb Swift, Kim McConnell,
Alan Jones, Anna Martin and Lee Wright

Choir: Caitlin Glastonbury, Anna Martin, Brenda Tremblay,
Emmalouise St. Amand, Mark Darling, Ben Magruder,
Alan Jones, Gavin Tremblay.

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

Call to Worship adapted from the work of Beth Merrill Neal as found on her blogspot
<https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/>

Centering prayer adapted from Daily Word from Unity 4/4/21

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Christ Is Alive!

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1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248

1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

The Downtown Church Staff

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