



DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HAPPY EASTER

We live into Jesus'
inclusive call to love
every person, care
for creation, and
work for God's
justice.



Celebration of Worship

April 20, 2025, 11:00 AM

Easter Sunday

[Click Here to Watch](#)

*If you have a joy or concern you would like to have lifted in prayer today, please complete a **Prayer Request Card**, including the name of the person (and pronunciation) or event, and additional information you'd like to share. Prayer Requests will be collected in baskets during the **hymn following the sermon** to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

Prelude

Gaudeamus!

Richard Proulx

"Rejoice!"

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Val Fowler

Announcements

Chime

*Introit

Easter Introit

John Ferguson

*"Listen. The One who bore God's heart, The One who spoke God's peace,
The One in whom God agonized is now the Risen Lord.
Death was no prison for him. Jesus is raised and among us.
All that you see and hear comes from the One who was freed.
Hear, O people of God, the Jesus Christ is risen. Alleluia!"*

Text: John Thornburg

*Call to Worship

Isaiah 65

David Lee

(incorporating the Hymn "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!")

Leader: Thus says the Lord: Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem, a rejoicing, and her people, a joy.

All Singing

"Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!"

ODE TO JOY

(Verse 1)

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder, all creation is amazed.

In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Leader: I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people.

All: No more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old man that does not fill out his days.

Leader: They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat them.

All: They shall not plant and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat.

Leader: For like the days of a tree shall be the days of my people, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

All Singing

"Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!"

ODE TO JOY

(Verse 2)

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning, see what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Leader: They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity, for they shall be an offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their children with them.

All: The wolf and the lamb shall lie down together.

The lion shall eat straw like an ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

All Singing

"Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!"

ODE TO JOY

(Verse 3)

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus, "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us. Sing "Hosanna!" everyone!

***Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

God of resurrection: We confess that we do not much trust this resurrection story. It doesn't fit with the headlines we read today. It doesn't work into our win-lose action plans for success. It doesn't make any sense according to the dominant view of our culture. God, if only there were a guarantee, if only there were an insurance plan, if only there were reasonable explanations and reliable data, perhaps we could trust this resurrection power.

[Time for silent prayers.]

Oh, God of resurrection: we are tired of the violence. We are weary of wars. We are even sad at the state of our own lives and relationships (the pain we cause, the power we misuse, the divisions we feel, the despair we tolerate.

[Time for silent prayers.]

We want to risk resurrection. We want to leave the prison of our limited knowledge. We want to emerge from the tombs that hold us back from new life. Make us Easter people, we pray. We seek the courage to be people of peace. We seek the hope that will sustain us in the desert times, until the tree of life blossoms and bears its fruit of justice and joy. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness (Nikos Kasantzakis)**

Leader: I asked the almond tree to speak to me of God.

All: The almond tree blossomed.

Leader: So may it be with us. Let us believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Then by the grace of God,
we will blossom.

Scripture

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Matthew 27:62-65

Music for Reflection

Festival Jubilate

Daniel Pinkham

"Shout to God all the earth. Serve God with gladness.

Come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. God has made us and not we ourselves.

We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

*Enter into God's gates with thanksgiving and into God's courts with praise.
Be thankful unto God. Bless God's name, for God is good.
God's love is everlasting, and God's faithfulness endureth
from generation to generation. Alleluia!"*
Text of Psalm 100, alt. Sung in Latin.

Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon

"Make It As Secure As You Can!"

Rev. Fowler

*Hymn

Because You Live, O Christ
(*Music may be found on page 8.*)

VERUCHTEN

Joys and Concerns

An Offering of Prayer

Leader: We offer our prayers through Christ, who is risen from the dead, who lives and reigns forever, and prays for us in heaven. Through Christ, we pray for the church:

All: Let us be people of joy, living witnesses to the power of the resurrection and the good news of your grace and peace. Living God, hear our prayer.

Leader: Through Christ, we pray for the earth:

All: From the dust of the damaged earth, raise up your new creation, full of beauty, wonder, and glory. Living God, hear our prayer.

Leader: Through Christ, we pray for all nations:

All: Let the message of your saving power spread throughout the world, that the dominion of death is no more. Living God, hear our prayer.

Leader: Through Christ, we pray for this community:

All: Let the doors of this church be open wide as we go forth in love and service and others come in to find a home. Living God, hear our prayer.

Leader: Through Christ we pray for loved ones:

All: Give hope to those who wait for good news. Turn mourning into dancing, and sorrow into joy. Living God, hear our prayer. Rejoicing in your promise of new creation, we conclude our prayers with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, and us:

† 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Break Forth!

Adolphus Hailstork

*"Break forth. Shout together in triumph. Shout together in glory. Alleluia!
Watchman, raise your voice. Shout a song of triumph; for ye shall see our God.
How lovely on the mountains are the feet of the herald,
who bringeth good tidings of peace and salvation,
Calling to Zion: "Your God reigns forever!"
Shout together children. Shout in glory!"*
Text: Isaiah 52:7-9, alt.

*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

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

We praise you, O God, and give you thanks that you have given us such joy, such grace, and such hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Let our lives be the proof of that good news. Let all our words and actions, our love and service bear witness to your resurrection power; for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*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

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude Toccata from Symphonie V Charles-Marie Widor

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Thank you to...

Liturgist: David Lee

Brass Ensemble

JR Jean Jacques and Trevor King, trumpets
Darren Brady, trombone Jack Whalen, tuba
Izaiah Gonzales, timpani, Jason Cloen, organ

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Nicole Knickerbocker, Lindsey Puc, Carolina Sullivan, Joan Sussman

Alto: Cecelia Allchin, Isabella Apodaca, Leah Rosenman

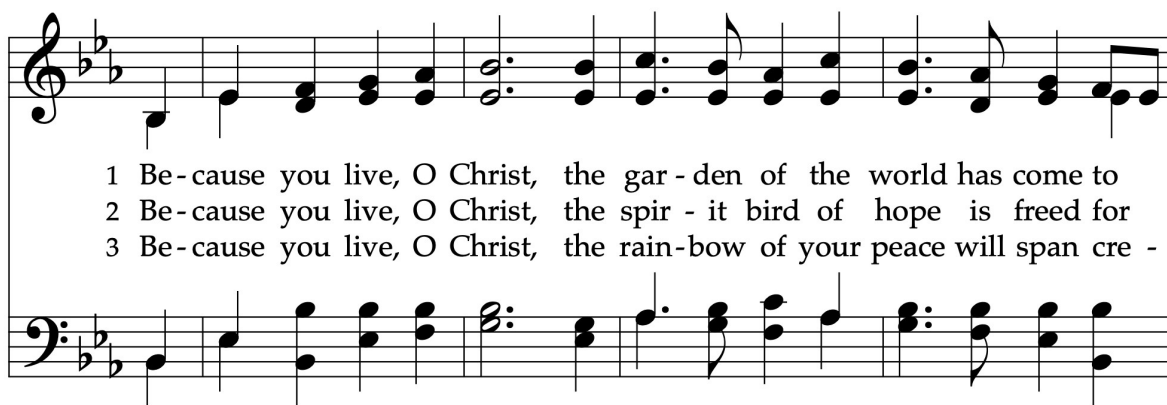
Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Mark Darling, Evan McMahon

Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHority, Elijah Gebers,
Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd, Sumner Tessier

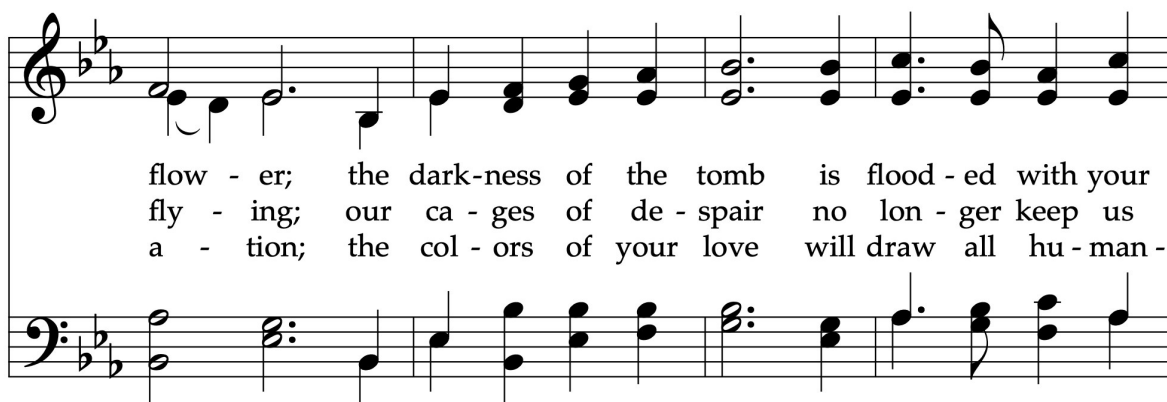
Live Stream Team: Don Fairman, David McDowell, Jim Parks, Sally Allison

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249 Because You Live, O Christ

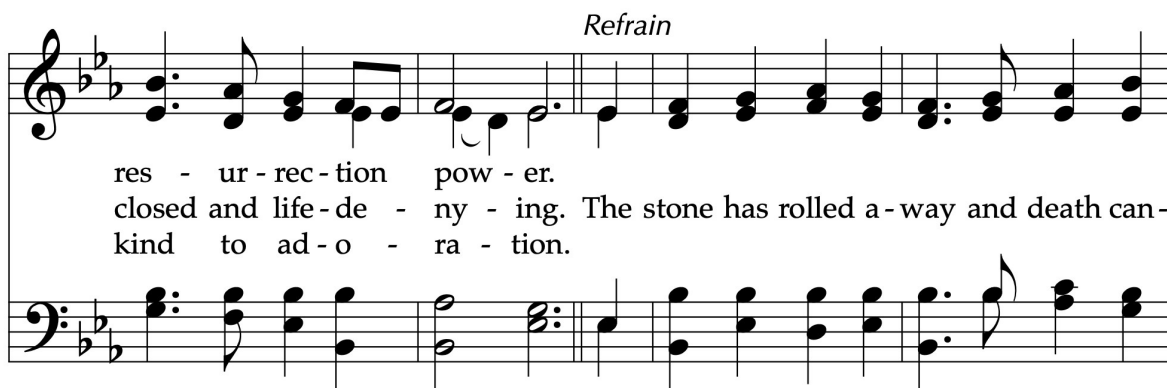


1 Be-cause you live, O Christ, the gar - den of the world has come to
 2 Be-cause you live, O Christ, the spir - it bird of hope is freed for
 3 Be-cause you live, O Christ, the rain-bow of your peace will span cre -

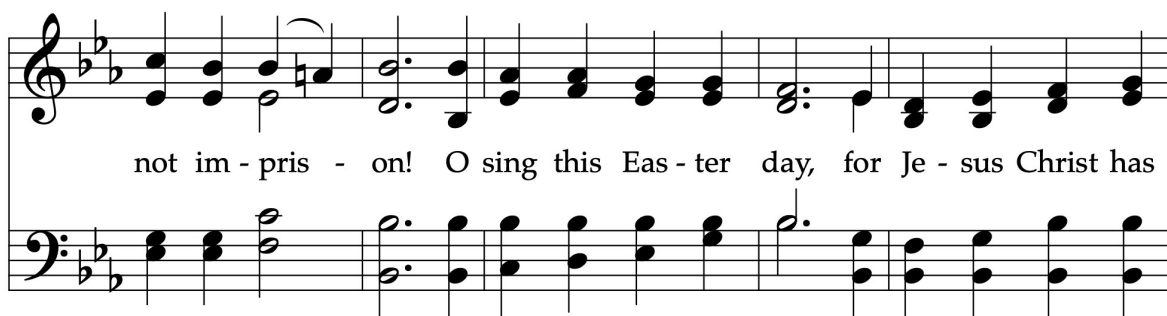


flow - er; the dark-ness of the tomb is flood - ed with your
 fly - ing; our ca - ges of de - spair no lon - ger keep us
 a - tion; the col - ors of your love will draw all hu - man -

Refrain



res - ur - rec - tion pow - er.
 closed and life - de - ny - ing. The stone has rolled a - way and death can -
 kind to ad - o - ra - tion.



not im - pris - on! O sing this Eas - ter day, for Je - sus Christ has

This New Zealand author's text contains no familiar images of springtime to bolster its message, because Easter in the Southern Hemisphere comes in autumn. This hymn resulted both from her dissatisfaction with existing hymns and from her love of this exuberant Dutch tune.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1987

MUSIC: Dutch melody, 17th cent.; harm. Alice Parker, 1966

Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company

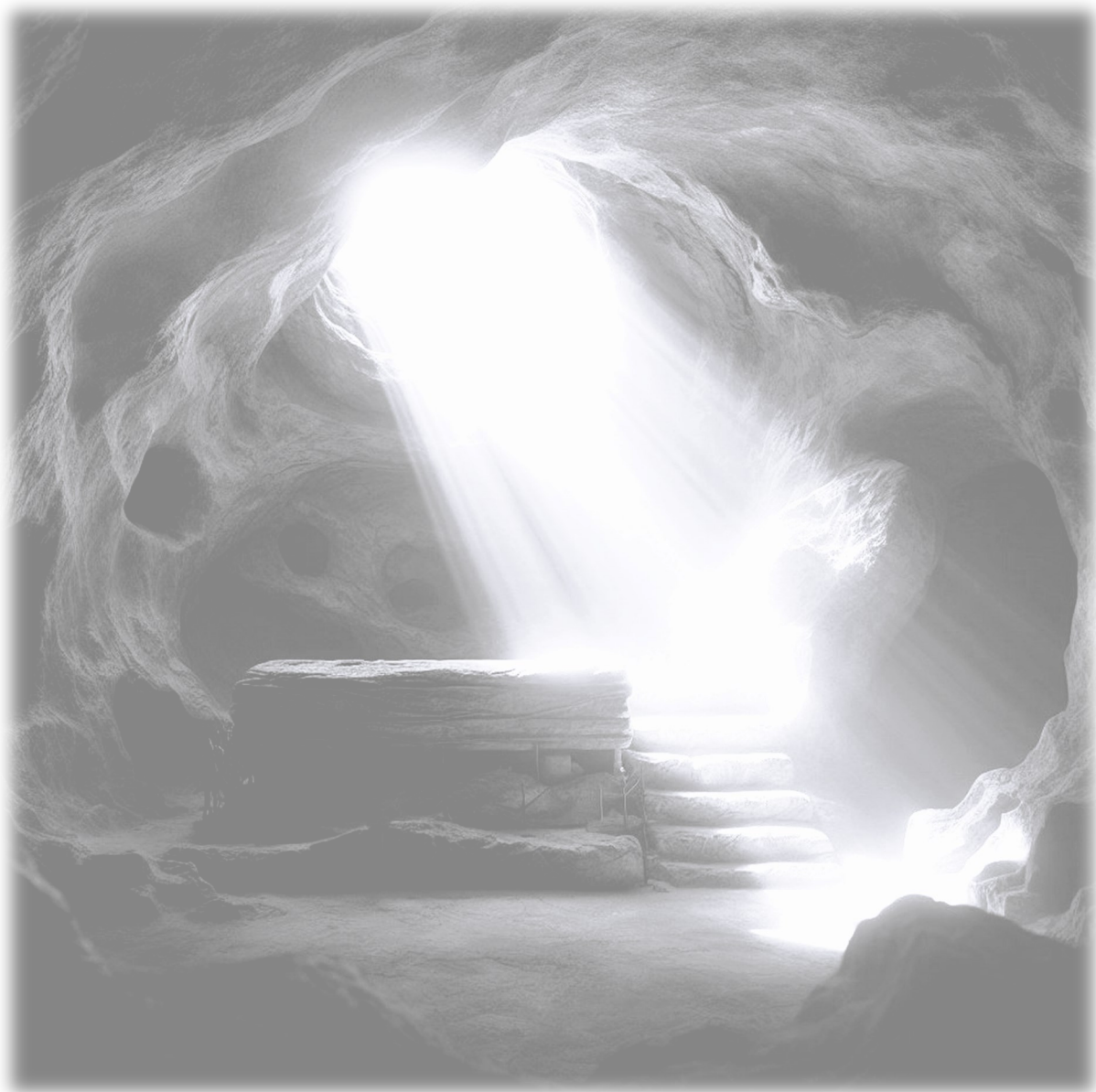
Music Harm. © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

VRUECHTEN

6.11.6.11 with refrain

(alternate harmonization, 244)

ris - en, has ris - en, has ris - en, has ris - en!





Our Special Easter Music was made possible by generous gifts to the Downtown United Presbyterian Church Music Fund.



This Week at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday

- 10:00AM Choir Warm-up
- 10:45AM Nursery
- 11:00AM Worship - Rev. Val Fowler
- 12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 22

Earth Day

- 10:30AM Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, April 23

- 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 25

- 12:00PM 3rd Fri. Book Group, Zoom
- 3:00PM Space Use Mtg. via Zoom

Sunday, April 27

- 10:00AM Choir Warm-up
- 10:45AM Nursery
- 11:00AM Worship - John DeHority
- 11:15AM Sunday School
- 12:00PM Refreshments in Sanctuary
- 7:00PM Sophia Circle via Zoom

We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love all people, care for creation, and work for God's Justice.

Welcome Visitors!

Nursery Care for children up to 2nd Grade is available. Drop-off starts at 10 a.m. in the library. The nursery is in C-23. **Children in Sunday School** will attend worship and are invited to "Time with Our Children and Youth" for a brief time with the pastor, and then will be taken up to their classroom by their teacher. Parents are welcome to come up as well.

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



† **We seek** to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position.

* **An asterisk indicates** "please rise in body or spirit."

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Joys and Concerns– If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request card (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person(s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The prayer requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the pastor.

The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
Kristie Jones, Office Administrator
David Mear, Business Manager
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes,
Nursery Coordinator

Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper
& Receptionist Coordinator
Tyrone Reeves, Maintenance
Robin Sheikh, Sunday School Teacher
Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session
Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock - co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Val Fowler,
Moderator
Nancy Brown
John DeHority

Lea Kone
Bob Richane
Sally Allison
Sam King

Jim Vesper
Pat Tweet
Mary Rees

Deacons

Bob Carlisle
Andrea Folan
Helen Ganotis
Cindy Hamilton

Jacqueline Hancock
Elizabeth Katz
Stephen Lloyd
Grania Marcus
Sandy Morales

Becky Parks
Susan Richane
Kelley Sheils
Marilyn Terpening

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