

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

Easter 2020

10:30AM

A CELEBRATION OF GOD'S VICTORY!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Acclamation for Easter

by Paige

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: We thought that Christ was dead. We thought the cross was the end. We thought that when the stone rolled over the tomb, that was it.

P: But this is it: the dead are living; the cross is empty; the stone is rolled, and one word describes it all: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

L: We thought Christ had said his final word. We thought those with the power had won. We thought that when Christ cried out, that was it.

P: But this is it: the word breathes; the powers are defeated; the final cry was on the beginning, and one word says it all: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

L: We thought the story was finished. We thought the hope had ended. We thought that when the tomb was sealed, that was it.

P: But this is it: the story has just begun; the hope is newly born; the tomb is empty, and one word says it all: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

L: This is the news:

P: Christ is risen!

L: This is the moment:

P: Christ is alive!

L: This is the gospel:

P: Christ is with us!

L: We thought that when they crucified Christ, death had defeated life, and that was it.

P: But this is it: Love is stronger than death, and one word says it all: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 166** (red hymnal, see p. 6)

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

¹Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: When our faith stands at the grave, grieving for a stone that's rolled away, forgive us. When our faith is short of understanding though the truth is there to see, forgive us. When our faith, beset by doubt, sees no further than an empty tomb today, forgive us. Forgive us because we find the truth of Easter so hard to believe. Forgive us that we are so easily downcast and given to despair. Forgive us that, although we claim to live by resurrection faith, we so often appear to believe that suffering is simply a tragedy and that death is the end. Forgive us that we take so much convincing of the hope that you give to the world.

Silence.

Come to us, O God, in the power of the risen Christ. Take away our doubts and fears, and through your Holy Spirit bring us to life in your service; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 245 (black hymnal, vs. 1 & 3, see p. 7)

The Day of Resurrection

ALL SING: The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory. Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin, the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein. Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend, for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHOIR ANTHEM

Awake! Arise! Go Forth!

by Price/Besig

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28: 1-10

EASTER MESSAGE

HYMN NO. 234 (black hymnal, see p. 8)

I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

RESURRECTION PRAYERS

SPECIAL MUSIC (sung by Olivia & Denny Daugherty) *Christ is Risen*
by Johnson, Brock, Whickham

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

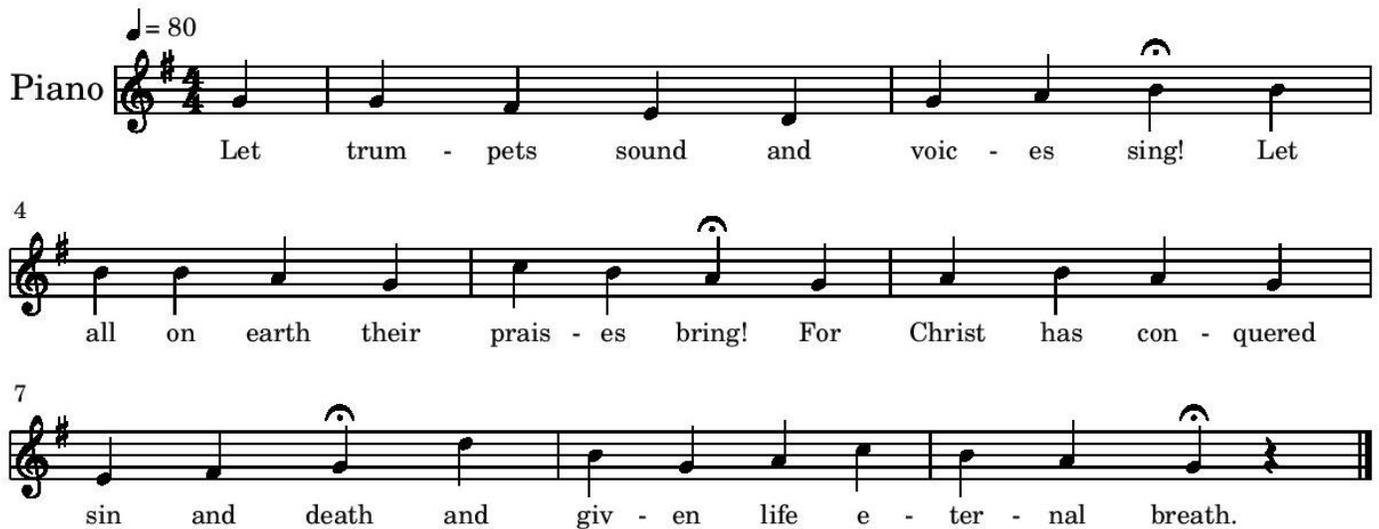
OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*Easter Doxology*³

Easter Doxology

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



Let trum - pets sound and voic - es sing! Let
all on earth their prais - es bring! For Christ has con - quered
sin and death and giv - en life e - ter - nal breath.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

L: Joyful is the sound we make this morning!

P: For this day liberates us from doubt and fear.

L: Thankful is the song we sing!

P: For this day moves us past darkness and despair.

L: Hopeful is the prayer upon our lips!

P: For this day awakens in us long awaited new life.

L: This table is for all who wish to know the Risen Christ.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed!

L: We should give thanks!

P: Thanks and praise to the One who brings life!

L: Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love, you are beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description...With the women at the tomb, we raise the strain of gladness, proclaiming with your people from every time and place:

P: Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death! The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom.

REMEMBERING THE STORY

L: Friends, as we remember the story, we invite you to take the elements that you have in front of you- whether bread or cracker, juice or wine or water... and follow the motions with us. On the night of his betrayal and desertion...

L: And so we break the bread and pour the cup and we remember with hope. On this Easter Day we share in the Banquet of Freedom to celebrate Life Victorious!

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

L: Through the broken bread

P: we participate in the body of Christ.

L: Eat this, and remember him.

THE CUP OF BLESSING

L: Through the cup of blessing

P: we participate in the new life Christ gives.

L: Drink this and remember him.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. Grant, O God, that we who have gathered together on this Day of Resurrection, will move on as people of hope, people of life, people of the Kingdom. May the meal we have shared today revive us in body and soul and energize us as we out to share the good news. Christ is Risen! Death is Defeated! Life Wins! Alleluia and Amen!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 233** (black hymnal, see p. 9)

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Triumphant Finale

by Bliss

¹written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on **Mucky Paws**. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws> and accessed at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/04/easter-call-to-worship-alleluia.html> on March 30, 2020.

²The prayer of confession is based on two confessions, the first written by John Birch, and posted on **Faith and Worship**. <http://www.faithandworship.com/> and the second from Companion to the Lectionary, Volume 3, *A New Collection of Prayers* by Neil Dixon, posted on the Church of Scotland's [Starters for Sunday](http://www.startersforsunday.org/) website. Both of these were accessed on March 30, 2020 at re-worship.blogspot.com.

³<https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2016/03/17/5726/>

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*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

♩ = 80

Piano

1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

5

Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ our heav'n - ly King. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise e - ter - nal as His love, Al - le - lu - ia!

9

Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Who en - dured the Cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky He's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise him all ye Heav - en - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

13

Suf - fer to re - deem our loss, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Al - le - lu - ia!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

The Day of Resurrection

Musical score for 'The Day of Resurrection'. It features a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time with a tempo of 80. The score is divided into four systems, each with a measure number (1, 5, 9, 13) at the beginning. The lyrics are written below the piano line. The first system includes two verses: '1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a -' and '3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be -'. The second system continues with '- broad; the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of' and '- gin, the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there -'. The third system continues with 'God. From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the' and '- in; Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness'. The fourth system concludes with 'sky, our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.' and 'blend, for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no'.

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a -
3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be -

5
- broad; the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of
- gin, the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there -

9
God. From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the
- in; Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness

13
sky, our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
blend, for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music, each with lyrics underneath. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The lyrics are arranged in three columns per staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

1. I'll shout the name of Christ who
 2. Dear broth - ers sing a - mong all
 3. Once more we shout our joy and

5
 lives, who lives, who lives that all might
 here, and and leap One with joy, my sis - ters
 praise to One we love, whose throne is

9
 live; Christ broke death's power at Cal - va -
 dear; A - lone at home we seek - va -
 grace, Whose way is Life, whose Word our -
 ful -

13
 - ry, and now I know from sin I'm
 peace, there Je - sus comes to bring re -
 - fills as we in glad - ness do God's

17
 free.
 - lease.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

♩ = 80

Piano

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

5

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

9

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

13

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.