

**Trinitarian Congregational Church**  
**TakeOut**  
**April 18, 2021**

**Bells** <https://youtu.be/-6qZ9A6GFik>

**Announcements**

**Prelude** “Reminiscence”  
Richard Clayderman  
<https://youtu.be/WB3k8gSkji0>

**Call to Worship** Suzan Smith  
Rosemary Dawson

One: Peace be with You – Christ is among us today.

Let us worship God who is merciful and righteous.

**All: God has given us joyful hearts and peaceful spirits.**

**God answers our prayers and keeps us safe.**

One: God has extended to us his marvelous love.

In Christ we are claimed as the children of God.

**All: We come to remember and celebrate the risen Christ.**

**We want to know the One who lived in love.**

One: Our faith strengthens us for each day’s living.

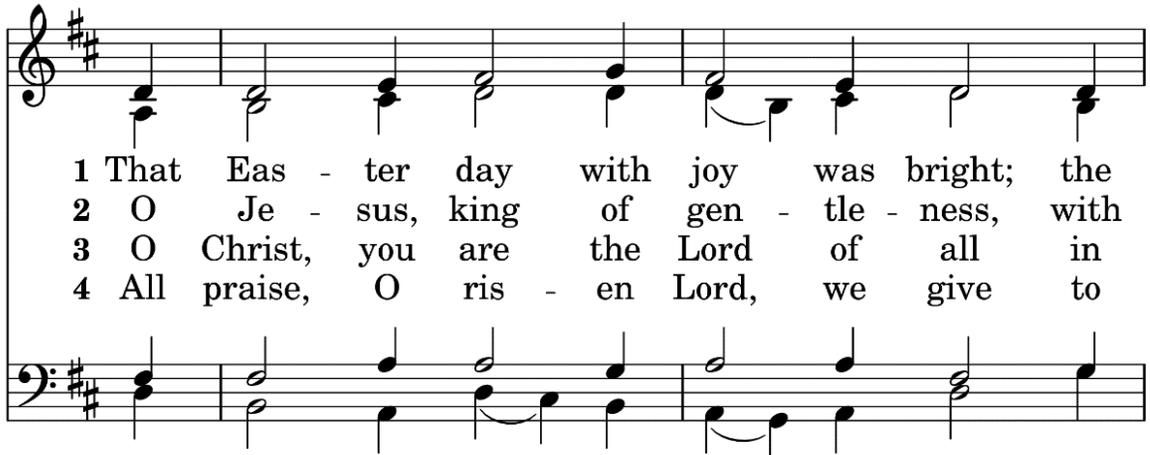
God empowers our ministries of caring.

**All: May the light of God’s face shine on us.**

**We look forward to what God will carry out through us.**

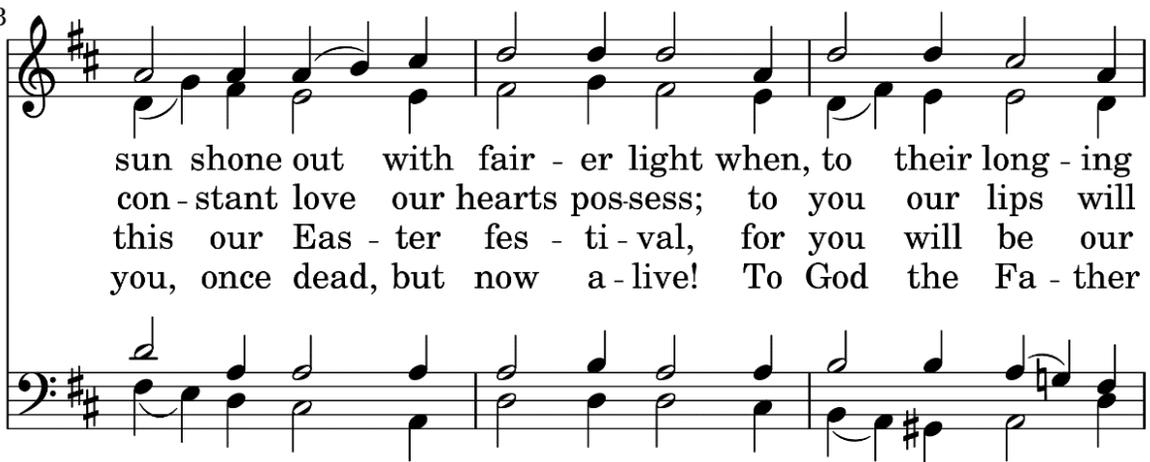
**\*Hymn** That Easter Day with Joy was Bright  
<https://youtu.be/MtYtksDqmuc>

## That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright



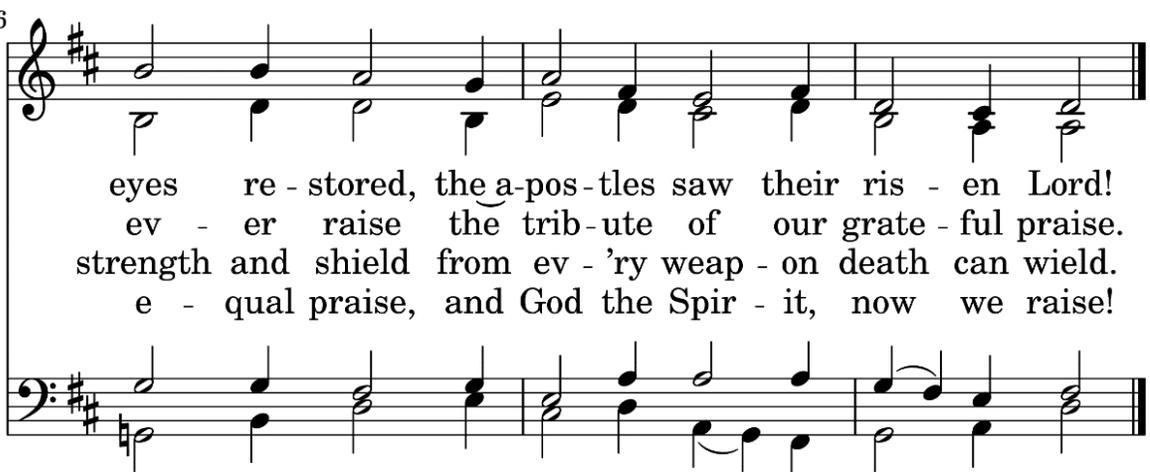
1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the  
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with  
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in  
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

3



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
 con - stant love our hearts possess; to you our lips will  
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our  
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther

6



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!  
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.  
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship* 384

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Music (PUER NOBIS, LM): European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## Gathering Prayer

Suzan Smith

**Faithful God, source of Easter joy, we are drawn together again by the mystery of life and death. We call on you, so far beyond our knowing, with a mixture of faith and doubt. Let your face shine on us as we put our trust in you. Draw together the fragments of our busy lives around the central core of your gracious love, that we might relate to one another as whole people. Grant us deeper roots in all that is true and right and good, that the fullness of our lives may become a witness to your grace. Amen.**

## Gloria Patri

<https://youtu.be/OLz3R1hnUjs>

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, reign without end. Amen, amen.

## Scriptures

Acts 3:12-19

Suzan Smith

<sup>12</sup>When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. <sup>17</sup>“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Luke 24:36-48

Rosemary Dawson

<sup>36</sup>While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.

## Special Music

“Fairest Lord Jesus”  
Traditional, arr. Joel Raney  
<https://youtu.be/8Am0ZeLecc0>

## Sermon

“When Jesus Shows Up”

Have any of you had an unexpected visitor in your home lately? I know that is an odd question given the Covid restrictions, but have you? I recently had such a visit, but not as you might expect. As I was sitting in my living room a squirrel meandered in! To say I was surprised and alarmed is to seriously downplay my response.

So I have some sympathy with the disciples reaction to a very unexpected visit from Jesus. The last they had seen of Jesus was on a cross; he had died and he was buried. So no, they could not have entertained the idea that Jesus was alive, never mind that he would be present in their midst. And yet that is just what happened.

Cleopas and the other disciple had just returned from Emmaus with an amazing story of seeing and eating with Jesus. And exactly then, as they were telling their story, Jesus enters their midst and greets them with the word ‘peace be with you.’ But peace was not their reaction. And I am pretty certain that if Jesus popped into our Zoom right now ‘peace’ would not be our reaction either! (But then again, maybe he is here at this very moment.) So when Jesus showed up, or shows up, I think it’s fair to say that startled and terrified, troubled and confounded would be the norm.

And I think that is why Jesus made such a production of assuring his disciples that it really was him – really! They were encouraged to verify his wounds, to look and see, to touch and behold. Jesus was risen - in body and soul. It was so remarkable, so incredible we would say it was ‘too good to be true’. And yet, amazingly, inexplicably, and beyond all human reasoning, it was true, and it is true.

That’s not to say it is easy to believe, because it is not. But then, if anything is true in the story or God and his people, even his creation, it is that God’s ways are incomprehensible and mind-blowing. It is not at all easy to comprehend; and that may just be another reason why Jesus showed up, and shows up, for us. Not just to prove his resurrection but because we need to know God truly, to have our sight and understanding expanded, sharpened and clarified.

Once the disciples came to grasp his loving presence Jesus reminded them “these are my words...that everything written about me... must be fulfilled.” Now we may think, given our limited assumptions, that Jesus here is either doing a ‘dot and tittle’ with scripture, or is playing fast and loose with interpretation. But that is not the case. Jesus is saying - this is who God is. This is how God works; this is how God always worked and will always work. This was God’s enterprise from the very beginning. God created us for himself, seeks to draw us to himself, and seeks to restore us to himself – always. And God, who is love, will pour himself out for us – even to death and even beyond death. It is like Jesus and the cross are the crown jewel and the prism through which we can see God’s love most clearly.

And when we open our hearts and our minds to God’s revelation – well, nothing is ever the same. The way we see the world, the way we live and work and interact in the world is forever changed. When Jesus showed up, when Jesus shows up, and we know it, and we know and grow in God – well Jesus tells us “You are witnesses of these things.” And how could we not. When we see something glorious,

experience something wonderful, or sense something even ‘mysterious’ we generally can’t shut up. Just think of the moment you fell in love, didn’t you want to shout it to the world?

When Jesus showed up his first disciples took to the world; sharing Christ’s story, doing Christ’s work, ministering in Christ’s name. And today, wherever Jesus shows up his disciples do the same. We are witnesses because of what we have witnessed. We tell the stories of what we have seen and experienced, discovered and known to be true, and we share in the good work God is doing in and through the Spirit of Christ.

So my friends, what is your witness today?

Amen.

**Hymn**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

<https://youtu.be/VFM19FKQGP0>

581

## I Love to Tell the Story

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of  
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what  
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry; for those who know it best seem

Je - sus and His glo - ry, of Je - sus and His love: I  
 seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet: I  
 hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest: and

love to tell the sto - ry be - cause I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my  
 love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal -  
 when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old

long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill  
 sto - ry that I have loved so long.

be my theme in glo - ry to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and His love.

WORDS: Katherine Hankey (stanzas), 1866; William G. Fischer (refrain), 1869  
 MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1869

HANKEY  
 7.6.7.6 D with refrain

## Joys and Concerns

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a gift we can always use. If you would like the church to pray for you please contact pastor Rosemary or Michele Lawler.

## Prayers of the People

Gracious, Loving God, we thank you for the truth and power of the Gospel. We thank you for your faithful presence with us, even when we are unaware of you. We thank you for Jesus Christ, for his death and resurrection and the promise of mercy and new life it holds. We are awed that you have made us witnesses to your grace and we thank you for the power of your Spirit to serve you faithfully. We come before you now, O God, asking for your guidance and aid as we seek to do your will.

We pray, for your church and for this congregation. Inspire us once again with the story of Christ. Lift our spirits with his reassuring presence, open our minds to his everlasting truth, and empower our wills as we follow his way, that we may be a true testament to your goodness and glory.

We pray as well for our world and all its leaders. Open their hearts to the story of your love and the power of your grace. Guide them with wisdom so that your justice and equity and peace may reign. We ask also that you would be present to all who are in need today. May the disheartened find hope, the fearful gain peace and the weary receive strength. Grant your healing to those who are ill, your comfort to those who mourn and your aid to those who are in need. We especially lift up.... and we thank you for your goodness to.... We also ask that you empower us, who have known the blessings of Christ, that we may become his hands and feet and mouth to all our neighbors, here among our community and throughout the world.

We praise you and thank you, wondrous God, for the depth of your grace and favor to us, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, who taught us to pray...

## The Lord's Prayer

## Choral Response

[https://youtu.be/lAivVHv\\_mbc](https://youtu.be/lAivVHv_mbc)

## Offering

With gratitude in our hearts, we offer our best to God with praise. We are witnesses to the redeeming work of Christ in our midst. And we offer these gifts that we might faithfully to sharing the good news and new life with all who are in need. Let us dedicate our gifts with gladness.

We give with joy, gracious God, for your presence is always with us. You call us as your children and claim us as your witnesses. You offer us your saving mercy and the strength of your Spirit for service. Bless these gifts and empower your church to proclaim good news and extend your rich blessings to all humankind. Amen

## Doxology

<https://youtu.be/5I7PEGUPAXQ>

(choose the one that is best for your faith)

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that Love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen

**Hymn**

“We All Are One in Mission”

<https://youtu.be/KO630qCQ2k8>

## We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,  
 2 We all are called for serv - ice to wit - ness in God's name.  
 3 We all be - hold one vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty:  
 4 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
 Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent, our pur - pose is the same:  
 the au - thor of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on a tree.  
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
 Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share  
 We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
 free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid de - spair.  
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

## **Common Commission**

**Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the fainthearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **Benediction**

Go now into the world,  
May the amazing grace of our Lord – Jesus Christ  
the extravagant love of God,  
and the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit  
be with each and every one of you, now and always. 2 Corinthians 13:13

Go in peace to love and serve our risen Lord Amen.

## **Postlude**

“Meditation”  
Yuhki Kuraoto  
<https://youtu.be/Y3K4nIm6BWM>

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music provided by Chris Harris and Lynne Walker