

Trinitarian Congregational Church
TakeOut
April 17, 2022

Announcements

Easter Acclamation

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Call to Worship

Michele Lawler

Leader: Alleluia! Sing the glad songs of victory;
God is creating a day of newness and joy.

**People: God is our strength and our song;
this is the day of our salvation. Alleluia!**

Leader: Praise God! Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

**People: The One who was rejected assures us of his grace.
We are accepted and beloved by God. Thank God!**

Leader: Glory to God! We are chosen by God as witnesses to good news.
We will live and recount the deeds of our God.

**People: God reigns; let all nations and peoples rejoice.
In Christ, all shall be made alive. Praise the Lord!**

***Hymn**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

NCH 233

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today



C F C F C/G G7 C

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

F Dm7 G C F C/G G7 C

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

G C G Am G/D D7 G

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids him rise; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died, our souls to save; Al - le - lu - ia!

C F C F C/G G7 C

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

(continues)

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.

Music (EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7 with alleluias): *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, P.D.

*Gathering Prayer

Michele Lawler

God of empty tombs, we praise you. God of promises fulfilled, we worship you. On this day of resurrection open our spirits to the good news of your salvation. Free us from our fears and distress, our confusion and doubts. Help us to recognize the living Christ in our midst, that we may hear your Word, trust your grace, sense your power, and live as true witnesses and servants of our Risen Lord. Amen.

Gloria Patri

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.

Scripture

Psalms 118: 1-2, 14-24

Michele Lawler

The original intent of this psalm is impossible to reconstruct, since it is more than 3,000 years old and formed in a vastly different culture and world view. But early Christians, with their Jewish background, saw in it language and themes that spoke most directly about God's vindication of Jesus. Whatever its origin or our current association, the psalm invites praise and thanksgiving for God's endless, enduring love, discovered in the wide array of God's great work for the people of God.

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted;

the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Luke 24:1-12

All the Gospels proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ, each with their own particular focus. Luke's account keeps the reader focused on the startling, confounding mystery of the resurrection. Words such as 'perplexed', 'wondering', 'questioning', 'astonished', 'astounded' flow throughout the chapter. It seems that for Luke faith does not preclude skepticism, but rather faith

and doubt are intricately linked and it is a process of discovery, remembrance, witness and encounter that moves one into a living faith in a living Lord.

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, wondering at what had happened.

Special Music

Sermon

Six Words

This week a colleague pointed me to a book called Not Quite What I was Planning: Six Word Memoirs. The premise of the book is to be able to summarize your life in just six words. It was right up my alley. Here are some of my favorites.

- *What’s the worst that could happen?
- *The experience was worth the risk.
- *What I didn’t expect changed me.
- *It’s simpler than they tell you.

Those are some interesting words, aren’t they? I wonder just how you might summarize your life in so few words. How would I? And on this Easter Day, it got me thinking - how would we summarize our faith in just six words. Could we do it? Remember - theologians, poets, musicians, and pastors have been at it for 2000 years now. Billions of words have been used try and explain it. Yet there is one proclamation that says it all, and it is this: *Christ is risen from the dead.*

These are the words that met the women at the garden tomb: “He is not here, he is risen”. And those stunned women carried those words from the empty tomb to the other disciples. From that first proclamation to today these words have been passed from person to person, from community to community -- in secret, in triumph, in darkness, in celebration. *Christ is risen from the dead.*

These six words have taken us from scattered, broken people who are lost to the largest religion in the world. These six words have found countless individuals whose lives were already dead -- broken by pain and suffering, by sin and darkness -- and given them new life. *Christ is risen from the dead.*

These are words that are whispered at death beds and shouted from rooftops, shared at dinner tables, in neighborhoods and workplaces. These are words that have been forbidden by governments, from the time of Jesus to today; and yet somehow, they are still spoken, still shared. *Christ is risen from the dead.*

These are the words martyrs have sung as they were being burned at the stake or fed to the lions. These are the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German martyr who opposed the Nazis. These are the words of Oscar Romero who was gunned down while celebrating the Eucharist in El Salvador. These are the words of Martin Luther King Jr., Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa and countless others, known and unknown. *Christ is risen from the dead.*

These words seem almost too good to be real, too impossible to be true. Like those first male disciples it can seem ‘an idol, ludicrous tale’. And yet they are true. The first disciples learned its truth in the upper room later that Easter day. Millions of others have learned its truth, not from sermons, but from life itself. *Christ is risen from the dead*

How many lives have been transformed, since those first few women went to a grave in deep sorrow and broken hope and came out with joy and courage, hope and power? How many billions of hearts have been “strangely warmed,” as John Wesley said, once they grasped hold of these six words? *Christ is risen from the dead*

What impact have these words had on the world? What have been the multitude of ways that forgiveness, joy, reconciliation, self-giving love and service have shaped the world – not just in miracles but also by inspiring and strengthening men and women to labor for peace and abundance, that the kingdom of God may be found on earth. *Christ is risen from the dead.*

This is not some ‘idle tale’, and it is not just about Jesus. Hidden within those six words is the whole of the promise of God, the promise of life, and life in abundance. As Jesus himself said “Because I live, you too shall live.’ (John 14:19)

These words hold the power of life; they hold the story of our lives, the story of the life of the world, the story of life itself. It is the story of God, who so loves the world... and how in that love God has brought power from weakness, hope from despair, life from death. It is, in the end, the only story that there is. A story as high as the heavens, as vast as all time, as profound as life itself. *Christ is risen from the dead.*

Six simple words. How have they changed your life? And how are they inviting you into the mystery and promise and joy of everlasting life?

Alleluia. Christ is risen from the dead. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Amen.

***Hymn**

I’ll Shout the Name

NCH 234

I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives

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Vivincio L. Vintuan, 1980; alt.

Rom. 6:5-11

1 I'll shout the name of Christ who lives,
 2 Dear brothers sing a-mong all here,
 3 Once more we shout our joy and praise

who lives, who lives, that all might live;
 and leap with joy, my sis - ters dear;
 to One we love, whose throne is grace,

Christ broke death's power at Cal - va - ry,
 A - lone at home we seek our peace,
 Whose way is Life, whose Word ful - fills

and now I know from sin I'm free.
 there Je - sus comes to bring re - lease.
 as we in glad - ness do God's will.

This contemporary Filipino hymn incorporates a musical motive from a traditional folk song, "Bahay Kubo." It was published in the 1983 collection of Asian-American hymns, Hymns from the Four Winds, edited by I-to Loh.

Tune: BAHAY KUBO L.M.
 Wesley Tactay Tabayoyong, 1981
 Based on a Philippine folk song

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

We praise you, Glorious God, on this most holy of days, for the amazing, incredible words that Christ is risen from the dead. We marvel at your power and are awed by your grace. We thank you for the life transforming gift they hold. And we thank you, that like the women at the tomb, we have such good news to share with the world. With hope filled hearts we come to you now seeking your guidance and presence as we follow Christ in faith.

And so pray, Marvelous God, for your church and for this congregation. May the truth of our Risen Lord be our joy and our strength. May the realities of the resurrection be found within and among us, so that the new life of your promise may flourish. And may the good news of your salvation empower us to live as witnesses and servants Christ here in our community and throughout the world. We pray, Mighty God, for all the leaders of this world. May they discover the truth of your word, power of your grace, and the hope of your peace. Strengthen and guide them as they seek to fulfill your good will for all peoples. We pray, Merciful God, for all who turn to you this day. May the disheartened know your hope, the distressed know your peace, and dejected know your joy. Grant also your healing to the ill, your comfort to the sorrowful, and your aid to the needy. We especially thank you, for ___ and we ask your continued care for ___. We praise you, Exalted God, for the marvels of your power and grace and love, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord, who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Choral Response

Remember Me

Offering

Christ is risen and salvation is ours! It is our privilege now to proclaim all that God has done. May our gifts today express our faith, our hope, our joy. May they give body to our commitment to bear witness to Christ and to offer his gift of restoration to the world. Let us dedicate our gifts with full, loving hearts.

Thank you, God, for the good news of the resurrection. We rejoice in Christ the author of the new life you have granted to us. As you offered Christ to the world, we would offer ourselves in his name. May we, along with our gifts, make known the good news of your forgiving love and empowering grace. Amen.

Doxology

(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

The Day of Resurrection

NCH 245

The Day of Resurrection!

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1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
 2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
 3. Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth her 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;
 let all the world keep tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from this world to the sky,
 and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 let all things seen and un - seen, their notes let all things blend,

our Christ hath 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 hath ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

John of Damascus, 8th cent.
 Tr. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.

LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
 Henry Thomas Smart, 1836

***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 faint-
hearted, 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

Giving praise and glory to God,
who, in his great mercy,
has given us new birth into a life full of hope,
through Jesus Christ, who is risen from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3 adj

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

Postlude

music provided by Chris Harris and Lynne Walker