

EASTER SUNDAY

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Worship Service

March 31, 2024

10:00 AM



PRELUDE

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Lasky

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Rogers Sunday / Neighboring Sunday, April 7th (*wear your favorite sweater and sneakers in honor of Mr. Rogers*)



RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Rejoice! There is great news! Christ is risen!

MANY: Christ is risen, indeed!

ONE: Let all the earth proclaim its joy!

MANY: Let all heaven show forth in praise.

ONE: Alleluia!

MANY: Alleluia!



HYMN

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!



**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**



**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**



Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!

Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!



RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: The stone is rolled away!

MANY: We assume it is a mistake.

ONE: The angels say, "He is not here!"

MANY: We assume their news is mere gossip.

ONE: The women tell the story,

MANY: But we do not want to hear it.

ONE: Peter runs to the tomb,

MANY: But we do not understand.



ONE: Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb

MANY: Is nothing more than a prank.

ONE: Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths

MANY: And still holding tight to death.

ONE: Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive
and well in the world.

MANY: Teach us to see what you see.

ONE: Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

MANY: Amen.

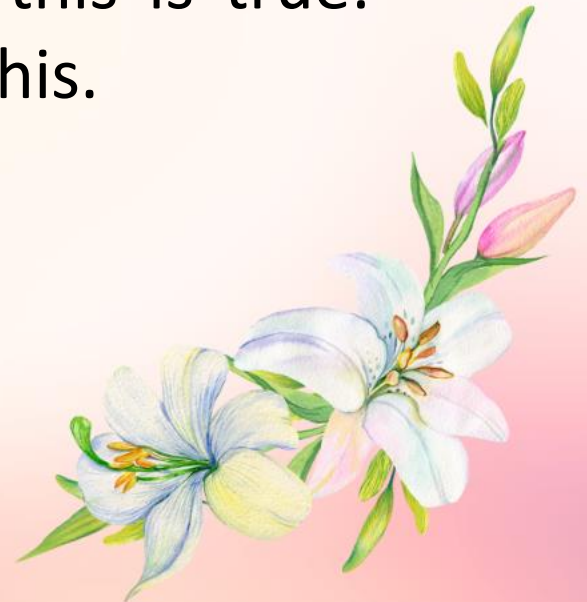
We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession



RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: The angels tell the women, “Remember what Jesus told you.” So, church, remember this: You are seen. You are forgiven. You are held in God’s grace. All of this is true. Grace and mercy abound for you. Remember this.

MANY: Alleluia! Amen.



HYMN

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 65:17-25

WORDS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES



NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 24:1-12

SERMON

Garbage and Wonder

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer



HYMN

Christ Is Risen, Shout Hosanna!

HYMN TO JOY

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.



**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.**



**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!**



UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We may weep through the longest nights. We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers. We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more. But today, we are a people of hope. We believe in new beginnings. We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.



We believe that Jesus abides among us, healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world. We believe that a tomb could not hold him. We believe that the sun does rise. We believe that Peter was there with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed. We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us. Today we are a people of hope. Alleluia! Amen!



CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Because He Lives, Amen

Hogan



DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.



PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen



HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**



**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**



**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**



EASTER SENDING

ONE: We shall celebrate Easter! Alleluia! We shall bring love to those who are sad, and share joy with those who are happy. We will live our lives to the glory of God. We will live in Easter joy and Easter hope, and bring new life to those we meet. Alleluia!



ONE: May the blessing of God the Creator be upon this place; the blessing of Christ our Redeemer be upon us; the blessing of the Spirit, hallowed and healing, be on our lives; the blessing of the Triune God be on all who seek an encounter with the loving and divine. He is risen!

MANY: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



POSTLUDE

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Lasky



WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Nancy Townley, and posted on the Worship Connection page of the **Ministry Matters** website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com>

The **Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon** and **Prayer for Illumination** are written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed and posted on *A Sanctified Art*. | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

The **Easter Benediction** is posted on the Third Space website. <http://third-space.org.uk/blog>

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