

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

### PRELUDE

*Two Variants on O Filii et Filiae, M.H. Corl<sup>1</sup>*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The glory of Easter fades so quickly if our faith is not great enough to believe in Christ's Resurrection.

**People: The feeling that Christ's Resurrection is too good to be true is the very reason our faith seems inadequate.**

Leader: That may be why Thomas wanted to see the Lord before he would believe such a wonderful truth.

**People: We cannot touch Christ's wounds; but we believe he arose, and we want our faith to be strong enough to always enjoy the glory of his Resurrection.**

### PRAYER OF ADORATION

\*HYMN 255

*O Songs and Daughters, Let Us Sing, O Filii et Filiae<sup>2</sup>*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Mighty God, by your power Christ is raised from death to rule this world in love. We confess that we have not believed in him, but fall into doubt and fear. Gladness has no home in our hearts, and gratitude is slight. Forgive our dread of dying, our hopelessness, and set us free for joy in the victory of Jesus Christ, who was dead but lives, and will put down every power to hurt or destroy, when your promised kingdom comes. (continue with silent confession). Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God swallows up death, wipes away tears, and takes away our reproach.

**People: We shall not die, but live to recount the deeds of God.**

Leader: Let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation, for it comes to each one who is open to receiving the gift.

**People: Praise God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*ACCLAMATION HYMN** *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven, Ode to Joy*<sup>3</sup>

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high!

Alleluia! to the Savior who has won the victory.

Alleluia! to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity,

Alleluia! Alleluia! to the Triune Majesty!

**\*PASSING THE PEACE** *(please use a fist/elbow bump or wave for your greeting)*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Please turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers, offering them the peace of Christ and then greet each other.

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### THE PSALM LESSON

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

#### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Amy Poland

*After the message, children may follow the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.*

### **SERMON**

*The Week Between, Clara D. Thompson*

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

#### **\*HYMN 254**

*That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright, Puer Nobis Nascitur*<sup>4</sup>

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer

### **PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 240** (refrain) Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks, Alleluia No. 1<sup>5</sup>

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

### **CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP**

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCES**

### **OFFERTORY**

*Variations on 'Be Thou My Vision', arr. J. Eggert*<sup>6</sup>

**\*DEDICATION HYMN 609**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow,  
Lasst Uns Erfreuen<sup>7</sup>*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**SEALING THE WORD**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you,

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, ...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and every place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**People: Sanctus Hymn** *Holy, Holy, Holy*, St. Bride Setting, Iona Community<sup>8</sup>

*When indicated, please echo each phrase the cantor sings.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty,... Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People: Acclamation Hymn** *Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen*,  
St. Bride Setting, Iona Community<sup>9</sup>

*When indicated, please echo each phrase the cantor sings.*

Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again,  
Christ will come again.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...We pray the prayer taught to us by our Lord Jesus Christ,

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## BREAKING OF BREAD AND POURING OF CUP

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*The congregation is invited to come forward and form two lines using the center aisle. The elements are received by intinction. Please take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. If you are unable to come forward, remain in your seat and the communion elements will be served to you. The bread is gluten free so that all may participate.*

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*Fairest Lord Jesus, arr. C. Ore<sup>11</sup>*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this holy meal, uniting us with Christ, and giving us a foretaste of our unity with all the saints. So, strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

### \*HYMN 246

*Christ is Alive!, Truro<sup>11</sup>*

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Lord of the Dance, arr. J. Raney<sup>12</sup>*

### Leaders Today:

Pastor: Rev. Clara Thompson

Liturgist: Ed Cothroll

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr

Dorothy Blotz, piano

Ushers/Greeters: Sue Dornfeld, Rich Appen, Bob Bush, Yong Joo Erwin (Deacon)

Communion: Bill Tanke, Abe & Carrie Aberle, Bud Smith



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## WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Info Update - Please Read!**

We are in the final steps of updating our member photo directory. We want to make sure we your correct information, so please take a moment to stop by the table (by the coat rack) in the Narthex and check your name and info. If something is incorrect, you can mark it on directly on the directory or call the office and let us know 608-238-3121. We need to have this done by April 14. Thank you!

### **After Worship**

There is no adult education after worship today, but please stay for coffee and fellowship.

### **Directory Sign Up**

Members and friends of the congregation - we encourage you to sign up asap for the pictorial directory April 17-19! This is free (with an option to buy the photos if you like them). We would love to have a complete directory and we need to know how many are coming, so please sign up today! Just use the QR code here and pick your time.



### **Save the Dates**

- VBC – Westminster will be joining forces again with Christ Presbyterian Church on August 13-16 from 9am-12pm for Vacation Bible Camp. Children, youth and adults are invited to participate!
- Women’s Retreat - We will be having another inspiring Women's retreat at Holy Wisdom on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Rev. Clara Thompson will lead this year!

### **Adult Forum: Sunday, April 21st at 11:00am**

Aaron Hicks, Reentry Coordinator, Nehemiah

Mr. Hicks will share his experience in the criminal justice system, current challenges he faces, and his work in Nehemiah’s “Man Up Group”. Aaron offers peer support to men in the community, has developed mental & emotional wellness initiatives inside prisons, and has started violence prevention initiatives. Mr. Hicks was recognized by EXPO for his work and commitment to those impacted by incarceration.

### **Pastor Scott Away**

Pastor Scott will be on vacation April 3-11. For pastoral emergencies during this time, please contact Pastor Clara Thompson at [claradthompson@gmail.com](mailto:claradthompson@gmail.com) or 608-698-1172. You may also contact the church office during normal hours.

