

Downtown Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship for April 19, 2020
Second Sunday of Easter

Opening Voluntary Chorale Prelude on *Llanfair* Hermann Schroeder
Llanfair is a tune written in 1817 by Robert Williams and is used for three hymns
in our current hymnal, including “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”

Welcome

Call to Worship based on Psalm 16:1-2, 5-11 (CEB, alt.) Samera Zavaro

*Protect us, God, because we take refuge in you.
We say to the LORD, “You are our Lord.
Apart from you, we have nothing good.”
You, LORD, are our portion, our cup; you control our destiny.
The property lines have fallen beautifully for us; yes, we have a lovely home.*

*We will bless the LORD who advises us;
even at night we are instructed in the depths of our minds.
We always put the LORD in front of us;
We will not stumble because God is on our right side.
That’s why our hearts celebrate and our mood is joyous;
yes, our whole bodies will rest in safety
because you won’t abandon our lives to the grave;
you won’t let your faithful followers see the pit.*

*You teach us the way of life.
In your presence is total celebration.
Beautiful things are always in your right hand.*

Hymn “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”
Ryan Norris, cantor

Gathering Prayer

*God of Easter,
though our lives seem so lonely and empty these days,
yet there is the sun in the morning,
the moon and stars at night,
the wonder of creation unfolding
before our eyes and hearts, reminding us
that we have nothing apart from you.*

continued

Risen Christ,

*when we need to maintain boundaries and safe distancing,
when we realize how much we miss human touch
you invite us to touch your loneliness with our own,
your sorrow and scars with our own, Brother of our souls.*

Spirit of Hope,

*when we find ourselves huddling in the locked rooms of our hearts,
the doors and shutters of our souls
securing us from the fears that are outside, you come
to breathe peace upon us,
to always surround us with hope,
to never abandon us to our loneliness.*

God in Community, Holy in One,

remind us we are never, ever, apart from you.

Assurance of God's Grace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 20:19-31

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

Sermon

Special Music

"We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight"
Ryan Norris, tenor

Samuel McFarland

We walk by faith, and not by sight; with gracious words draw near;
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."

We may not touch Your hands and side, nor follow where You trod;
but in Your promise we rejoice and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
to call on You when You are near and seek where You are found.

And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light,
may we behold You as You are, with full and endless sight.

— Henry Alford

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

"Thine Is the Glory"
Ryan Norris, cantor

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on *Christ ist Erstanden*

Johann K. F. Fischer

Christ ist Erstanden is possibly the oldest liturgical song in German.

Michael Weisse wrote a hymn using its name and melody around 1533
which was translated by Catherine Winkworth in 1858 as "Christ the Lord is Risen Again."

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

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

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

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise,
 Je - sus died, our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

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

Originally printed as eleven four-line stanzas without alleluias, this Easter text was written during the first year following the author's life-changing conversion experience, yet it already shows his enduring emphasis on the theme of love. This lively Welsh tune sets it well.

Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con- quering Son; end - less is
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
 with - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con - quers

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

This Easter text, first in French and later in English, was written to fit the music, a chorus created for Handel's oratorio *Josua* and moved to *Judas Maccabeus* in 1751. It grew widely popular following its use at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948.