

Downtown Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship for April 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter

Opening Voluntary

Prelude in C Major, BWV 553

J. S. Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 119:1-4, 12-19 (CEB, alt.)

*We love the LORD because God hears
our requests for mercy.
We'll call out to God as long as we live,
because God listens closely to us.
Death's ropes bound us;
the distress of the grave found us—
we came face-to-face with trouble and grief.
So we called on the LORD's name:
"LORD, please save us!"*

*What can we give back to the LORD
for all the good things God has done for us?
We'll lift up the cup of salvation.
We'll call on the LORD's name.
We'll keep the promises we made to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.
In the LORD's eyes, the death of the faithful is a costly loss.
Oh yes, LORD, we are definitely your servants!
We are your servants and the children of your servants—
you've freed us from our chains.
So we'll offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to you,
and we'll call on the LORD's name.
We'll keep the promises we made to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.
Praise the LORD!*

Hymn

“The Day of Resurrection”
Amy Finka, cantor

Gathering Prayer

*When every day seems the same,
with no one listening to our dreams,
our hopes, our fears and worries,
you pause, God our Provider
turning your head so you can read our lips.*

*When every road seems the same,
filled with despair's potholes,
littered with pain's refuse,
you come alongside us, God our Lover,
pointing out that side road that will take us to your banquet hall.*

*When every step trips us up,
when guilt weighs us down,
when every grief breaks our heart,
you come, God our Keeper,
with your book of grace
filled with words of hope.*

*When everyone ignores us,
when everything disappoints us,
you walk with us, you talk with us,
you refuse to abandon us, God in Community.*

*So help us to set aside our distractions.
Receive any guilt we might need to surrender.
Remind us that we are beloved.
Surround us with your blessing.
Amen.*

Assurance of God's Grace

*May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.*

Announcements

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Luke 24:13-35

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.

He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"

He said to them, "What things?"

They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there's more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn't find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?"

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

Sermon

Rev. Mike Wilson

Special Music

“The Day of Arising”
Amy Finka, soprano

Carl F. Schalk

Day of arising, Christ on the roadway, unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him, as fades the first day, and bread is broken, Christ is made known.

When we are walking, doubtful and dreading, blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting our invitation: Stay, do not part.

Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken. This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:
when the church gathers, when bread is broken, there Christ is with us in bread and wine.

Christ, our companion, hope for the journey, bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning that all creation with you may rise.

— Susan Palo Cherwien

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”
Amy Finka, cantor

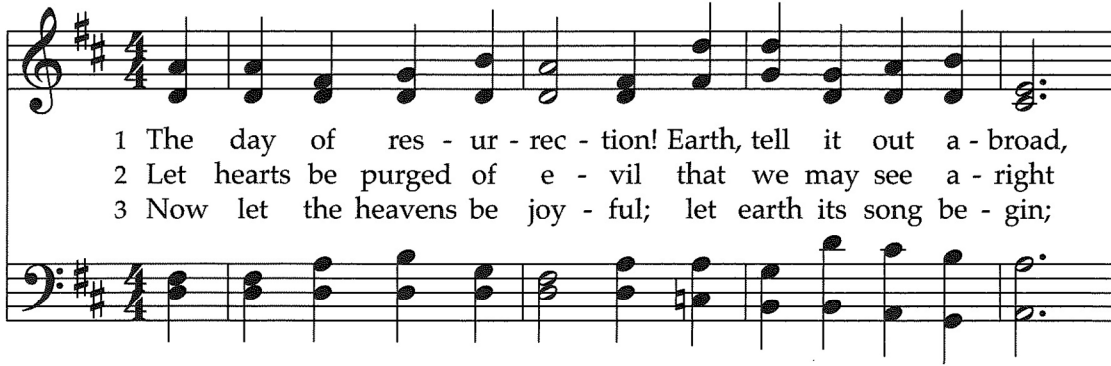
Benediction

Closing Voluntary

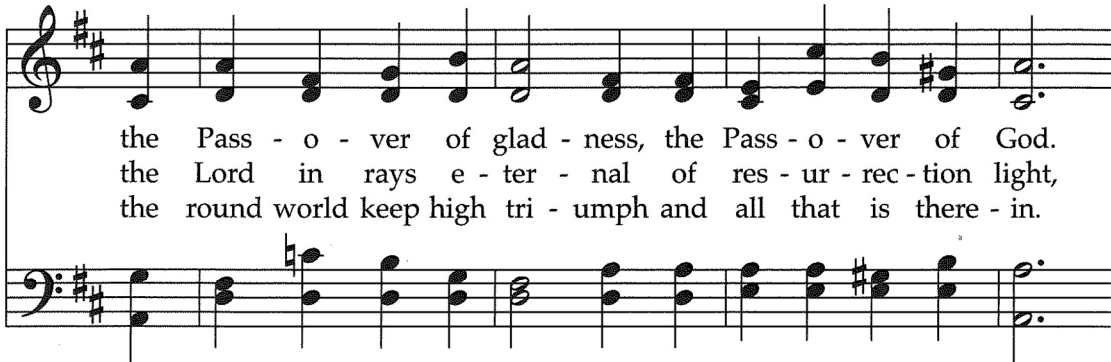
Fugue in C Major, BWV 553

J. S. Bach

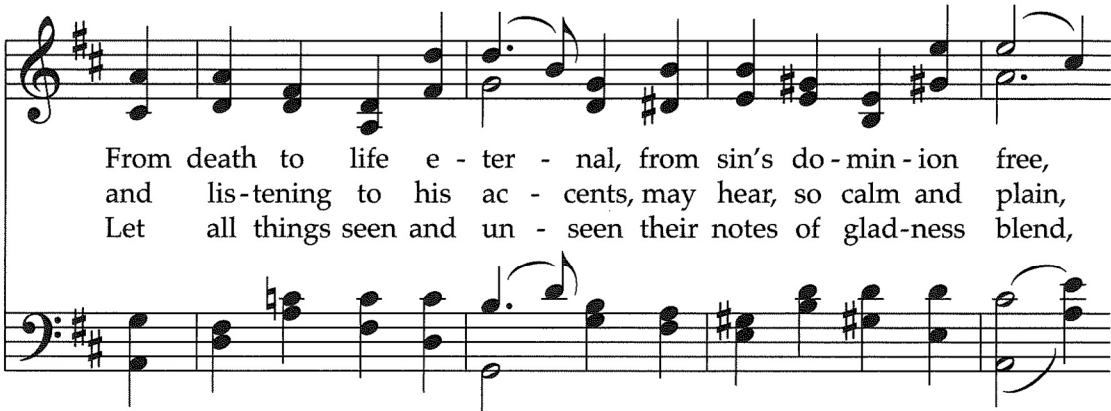
The Day of Resurrection!



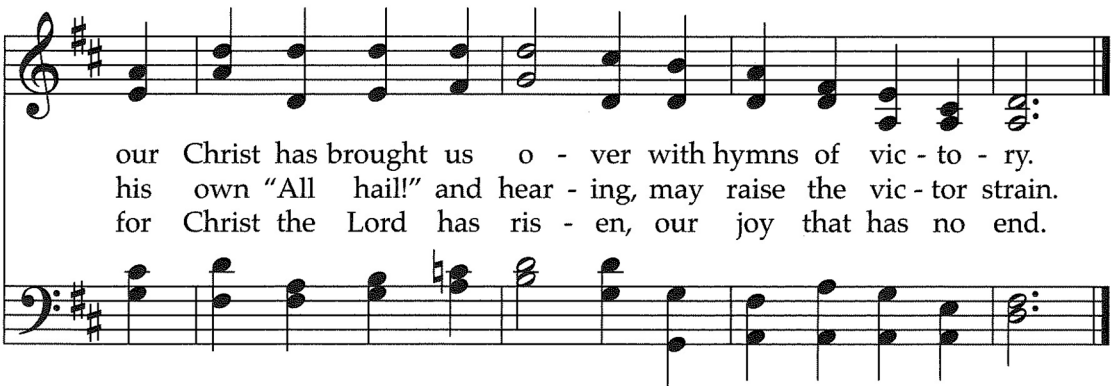
1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;



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,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



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

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee
2 Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
3 O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart,
4 But what to those who find? Ah, this
5 Je - sus, our on - ly joy be thou,

with sweet - ness fills my breast. But sweet - er far thy
nor can the mind re - call a sweet - er sound than
O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how
nor tongue nor pen can show. The love of Je - sus,
as thou our prize wilt be. Je - sus, be thou our

face to see, and in thy pres - ence rest.
thy blest name, O Sav - ior of us all.
kind thou art! How good to those who seek!
what it is none but his loved ones know.
glo - ry now, and through e - ter - ni - ty.

The sweetness celebrated in this anonymous 12th-century Latin poem is not cloying or sentimental; it is more like an antidote to bitterness and a source of hope and healing. The best-known 19th-century translation is set here to a tune composed especially for these words.

TEXT: Latin hymn, 12th cent.; trans. Edward Caswall, 1849, alt.
MUSIC: John Bacchus Dykes, 1866, alt.

ST. AGNES
CM