

# EASTER SUNDAY

## April 4, 2021 | Sanctuary

### ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### GATHERING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

VOLUNTARY

♦CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 118*)

Beth Poe (8:30) | Laura Shields (10:30)

Open, we pray, the gates of righteousness, that we may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.

**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.**

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

**Let the people's of the whole world say, "His steadfast love endures forever..."**

**This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."**

♦OPENING PRAYER

We come to you today, O Lord, in our Easter finest. We come to your house after months away. We come in hope, perhaps in expectation. But hope for what? Expectations of what kind? Of this we are less sure. Our vision stops at the bending of the horizon. Our knowledge ceases at the veil of death. Our instinct to survive compels us to cling to the life we know, yet we know also that we shall not long endure. Our limitations haunt us more than our hopes support us. This, we recognize, is rational and normal.

All of this we bring before you, with frankness and openness. We trust that we may trust you for the present as for the past, and for a future we cannot imagine. Amen.

HYMN

"The Day of Resurrection!"

LANCASHIRE

CALL TO CONFESSION

To say that Christ lives and reigns is to acknowledge his living presence in our lives at every moment of every day. His Spirit strives within us. And, sitting at the right hand of God the Father, he intercedes for us. Thus Father, Son and Spirit work in concert to guide us in the path of life and to lift us up when we fall. And we know that we do fall. Together, trusting God for his steadfast love, we come now to confess our sin.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN (*unison*)

**O God, how should I confess, when I understand so little of righteousness. My wisdom is limited. My knowledge is flawed, especially when it comes to knowing myself. I don't have to hide my motivations from myself, they are hidden already. And I suspect that if I prayed, even now, that you would bring to mind those things I ought to confess, it would be my own blaming words I would hear and not your Word. My spirit and my mind lack clarity, O God. Not only do I do the things I wish I wouldn't, and avoid the things I think I should, but, again, I suspect that even when I think I'm doing good, I'm not. The Apostle cried, "Woe is me," and**

**so do I. Perhaps this is where confession can begin, when I cast myself upon you and entrust myself entirely to your grace and mercy, and surrender all those shiny idols of the self that fool me into believing that judgment, even of myself, is mine. Amen.**

## SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Judgment is mine," says the Lord. And he means it. Not because he is selfish, but because he is merciful. If judgment rested in our hands, none of us would survive the vengeance. Only by entrusting judgment to God, can we expect grace. Hear the good news of the gospel: "In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven." Amen.

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, illumine us in the hearing of your Word, that truth will abide within us and will guide our lives  
Amen.

### THE GOSPEL LESSONS (*response: **Thanks be to God.***)      The Gospel According to St. John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

### The Gospel According to St. John 20:19-29

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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."

SERMON

"Trusting God for the Future"

Michael Jinkins

♦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostle's Creed"

♦GLORIA PATRI

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, world without end. Amen.

ANTHEM

"Hallelujah" from *Messiah*  
SCAPC Chancel Choir Chamber Singers

Handel

PRESENTATION

Stephanie November (8:30)  
Laura Shields, Shannon Holtzman, Laurie Young (10:30)

PASTORAL PRAYER

**Angels stand, according to legend, at the boundary of the Garden of Eden; flaming swords the angels hold to prevent our eating from the Tree of Life. The legend makes this sound like an act of divine wrath, a cruel fate dooming us to taste of death. But what if this was an act of supreme love, of mercy, to remind us that we like every creature is born, lives and dies in the hand of God. I think it was God's grace that placed the cherubim at their eternal guard post, so that we might find rest for world-weary bones and flesh, and peace at the last, as the poet says, returning to humus which, after all, is the source of our humanity. But not the ground of our humanity. No. The ground of our humanity is the Creator by whose Word and Spirit we were given life in the first place. The future, we do not know. However, we may learn to trust the God who made us from the ground to re-create us again. And we can hope that if God does re-create us, we will be able to bear life everlasting, if that is his will for us. We pray in the name of his Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:**

**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, forever. Amen.**

## SENDING

HYMN	"Christ is Alive"	TRURO
♦CHARGE AND BLESSING		
♦CHORAL RESPONSE	"Hymn of Promise"	Sleeth
♦VOLUNTARY	"Toccata" from Symphony V Steven B. Blackmon, organ	Vidor

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♦*Congregation, please stand as you are able.*

*The ushers will collect the offering at the doors as you exit.*

*Please exit through the doors you entered through and take your bulletins to dispose of in the baskets at the doors.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Bloomfield. In 1930, Mrs. Bloomfield, through a single gift, fully funded the construction of our Sanctuary.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY for the 8:30 service are Mayson Buffington, Michael O'Keefe, Kelly and Laura McWhirter, and Thomas Schulingkamp. Serving for the 10:30 service are Jeff and Laurie Young, Charlie and Nancy Jane Carson, Ann Maier, Kate Prechter, and Noah Hardie.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING: In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. To donate, you can enclose your check (made out to SCAPC) in the envelopes in your pew/seat and give to the ushers when you leave, or you can make your donation online at [www.scapc.org/donation](http://www.scapc.org/donation) between now and Friday, April 9. Please be sure to mark the "One Great Hour of Sharing" box to designate your donation.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: Join the Spiritual Formation Committee starting next Sunday, April 11 from 9:30 – 10:15AM outside the Land Building. Families are invited to come hear the stories of Jesus and the Early Church while making crafts and art projects with their children. Masks and social distancing will be maintained. Reservations are not required but we ask that you email Michele Murphy at [michele@scapc.org](mailto:michele@scapc.org) if you plan on attending. All children must attend with an adult (parent or chaperone). If your family would like to attend either the 8:30 or 10:30AM worship service in person, reservations will need to be made separately each week at [www.scapc.org/reservations](http://www.scapc.org/reservations).

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Ashley McCoy and Kelly McCoy Land on the death of their parents. Mary Jane McCoy died on December 31, 2020 and Lem McCoy died on March 4, 2021.