



***The Stone Church of Willow Glen -
Presbyterian Church (USA)
San José, California
April 12, 2020 - 9:30 a.m.
Resurrection of our Lord/Easter***

The Preparation for the Word

*Before worship, speak with God. During
worship, let God speak to you.*

Prelude

“Lyric Pieces, Bk. 7, Op. 62: No. 2, Gratitude”

“He Lives!”

“Because He Lives”

“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”

“Low in the Grave He Lay”

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Alfred Ackley (1887-1960)

Bill Gaither (b. 1936)

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Pam Hood, Interim Organist

Welcome

The Rev. Sammie Evans

Call to Worship

Joanne Vliet, Liturgist

When the tomb looms large before our eyes, remind us, Lord, who we are:

We are children of the resurrection; the place of death cannot hold us.

We are here to attest to a story that has not lost its power through centuries of change and conflict.

We are here because those before us carried this story as if it were precious gold; cherished it as if it were the key to a hidden wisdom.

Sisters, brothers and siblings in Christ, take your places here today in celebration and in awe. What you are about to hear again has the capacity to change the world. Your very presence attests to the rising up of life from the tomb of despair, and to the uncontrollable power of God.

**It is Easter morning again and no matter what our circumstance,
today we will celebrate!**

How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

We are called to be Easter people!

Darkness cannot claim us!

Fear cannot bind us!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Opening Hymn #123 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um-phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n-ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise him, now his might con - fess, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: St. 1, *Surrexit Christus hodie*, Latin, 14th C.; para. in *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; st. 2, 3, *The Compleat Psalmist*, c.1750, alt.; st. 4, Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Tune: EASTER HYMN, 77 77 with alleluias; *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

Call to Confession

We trust that the Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Trusting in God's abundant grace, let us confess our limitations and sins before God. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God of life,

We gather again unable to physically be together on this resurrection morning and yet still daring to proclaim new life. We have proclaimed and sung that you have indeed risen. Yet we confess that we do this with suspicion, fear, and uncertainty still wavering in our hearts. We find ourselves forgetting that new life begins in the dark and that even the empty tomb was discovered in the darkness.

Help us to trust that even when we do not recognize your presence, you are indeed with us. Help us to have faith that the empty tomb means not that you have abandoned us, but that you are alive among us.

We believe, O God; help our unbelief.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

The Rev. Irene Pak Lee, Associate Pastor

Friends this is the day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and a love that will never end.

We were, we will be again, and we are even now an Easter people! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us.

Believe the good news again for you this day. In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation.

Hallelujah! Amen.

Passing of the Peace Liturgy

The peace of Christ be with you.

May we receive and offer the peace that Christ offers.

The peace of Christ be with our neighbors, our friends, and our families.

And also with you.

The peace of Christ be with the stranger, our enemies, those who are feared.

And also with you.

The peace of Christ be with the world and all of God's beloved.

And also with you.

Sisters, brothers, and siblings in Christ, let us be at peace with ourselves and with all we encounter, for again we proclaim that Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

We Listen To God's Word

The Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 31:1-6

The Joyful Return of the Exiles

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.'

Anthem

"Easter Hymn Medley" Traditional Hymns

Karen Thielen, Harp

Children's Sermon

Mary Jo Blazek, Church School Administrator

Gospel Lesson

John 20:1-18

The Resurrection of Jesus

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 towards 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.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

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 round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' 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.

Sermon

“Life Begins in the Dark”

The Rev. Sammie Evans

We Respond to the Good News

Call for the Offering

<p>Use Stone’s PayPal account via the “donate” button at https://www.stonechurch.org/; keep in mind that PayPal takes 2.9% + 30¢ per transaction of the amount as a service fee, so you may want to adjust your gift accordingly.</p>	<p>Use your own PayPal account to “send money” (without a fee) to office_manager@stonechurch.org, using “friends and family” and your checking account, for which there are no fees. Enter a memo to specify the reason for the donation.</p>
<p>Sign-up for an automatic withdrawal from your checking. Contact office_manager@stonchurch.org for more info.</p>	<p>Use your bank's online bill pay to send a check to Stone Church.</p>
<p>Snail mail your check: 1937 Lincoln Ave, SJ Ca 95125</p>	<p>Drop off your check at the office, or in the mail box outside the office door.</p>

Offertory

“Cantique de Jean Racine”

*by Gabriel Fauré
Karen Thielen, Harp*

Dedication of the People and Their Gifts Hymn #592

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost.***

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People 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 forever. Amen.

We Go Out in God's Name

Closing Hymn

"Because He Lives"

<p><i>God sent God's son, they called Him Jesus He came to love, heal and forgive He lived and died to buy my pardon An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives</i></p> <p><i>Because He lives, I can face tomorrow Because He lives, all fear is gone Because I know He holds the future And life is worth the living, just because He lives</i></p> <p><i>How sweet to hold a newborn baby And feel the pride and joy He gives But greater still the calm assurance This child can face uncertain day, because He lives</i></p>	<p><i>Because He lives, I can face tomorrow Because He lives, all fear is gone Because I know He holds the future And life is worth the living, just because He lives</i></p> <p><i>And then one day, I'll cross the river I'll fight life's final war with pain And then, as death gives way to victory I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns</i></p> <p><i>Because He lives, I can face tomorrow Because He lives, all fear is gone Because I know He holds the future And life is worth the living, just because He lives</i></p>
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Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Easter Song (Hear the Bells Ringing)"

Anne Herring (b. 1945)

ASL Interpreter ~ Amber Marince

Original bulletin art created by Willow Glen Artist **Lynden Keith Johnson**.

Artist Note: Here is an equation which exemplifies my experience at Stone Church:
unity in diversity = belonging in congregation. For my Lenten discipline I am
creating images which attempt to give visual meaning to the equation.

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