

Easter Sunrise Service
Riverside Presbyterian Church, Manse Entrance
Sunday, April 16, 2017, 6:30 a.m.

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME:

One: May the grace and power of the Risen Christ be with you and among you.

All: And also with you. We praise God that Christ has been raised from death, and that God will also raise us to new life through the Spirit. Alleluia! Amen!

***HYMN: Up from the Grave He Arose** – *Robert Lowry*

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| 1. Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord! | 2. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! |
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Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

THE ACCOUNT OF THE RESURRECTION FROM JOHN 20:1-18

One: This is the gospel of our Risen Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PREPARATION: How Will You Rise – *Sean Prendiville*

Waking up to night, or somewhere in between
A fragile kind of light, a morning moonbeam
A whisper in your head, a fever kind of dream
An inconsistent dread, a broken routine

Tearing through your mind maze, sweating from the brow
Looking for the entrance or an out
Losing your direction, a frenzy in your eyes
The echo of a question, "How will you rise?"

How will you rise?
Will you get up on the right side of the wrong bed?
Will your appetite for hunger keep you fed?
Will the bright blue sky still get you seeing red?
How will you rise?

Taking in the landscape's uninspired sight
A broke and breaking surface, a parasitic fight
An unforgiving mindset, a depth without a height
The blinding light of future, your eyes shut tight

Finding a reflection, averting your gaze
Rejecting a concession, ignoring the change

Screaming at the headlights, damning the tides
The heart beneath the floor beats, "How will you rise?"

How will you rise?
Will you tell yourself exactly what you don't mean?
Will you thrash and spit to keep from making a scene?
Will you tear your stitch to show that you still bleed?
How will you rise?

Oh, how the image of all that this has become
Was redefined by all the work that came undone
Oh, how the years have compounded into one
As if you never did quite make it round the sun

How will you rise?
Will you finally feel that smile spread across your face,
Or will you wipe it away like you have so well all those other days?

MESSAGE

"Making a Strange Story Your Own"

Pastor Doug Asbury

SONG FOR REFLECTION: "Come on Up to the House" – Tom Waits

Well the moon is broken
And the sky is cracked
Come on up to the house
The only things that you can see
Is all that you lack
Come on up to the house

Does life seem nasty, brutish and short
Come on up to the house
The seas are stormy
And you can't find no port
Come on up to the house
[Chorus]

All your cryin' don't do no good
Come on up to the house
Come down off the cross
We can use the wood
Come on up to the house

There's nothin' in the world
that you can do
you gotta come on up to the house
and you been whipped by the forces
that are inside you
come on up to the house

Chorus

Come on up to the house
Come on up to the house
The world is not my home
I'm just a passin' thru
Come on up to the house

well, you're high on top
of your mountain of woe
come on up to the house
well, you know you should surrender
but you can't let go
you gotta come on up to the house
[Chorus]

There's no light in the tunnel
No irons in the fire
Come on up to the house
And you're singin' lead soprano
In a junkman's choir
You gotta come on up to the house

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: On this day we overflow with thanks and praise, O God, for this is the day you have made,

All: the day that fills us with both fear and great joy.

One: On this day you sent your angels to roll back the stone and you raised Jesus, who had been crucified, from the dead.

All: Never again need we search for Jesus in the places of dead memories and buried dreams, for now he has been raised and goes forever ahead of us to open the gates of justice, preaching peace, the forgiveness of sins, and a new life of purpose such as we have never known before.

One: Indeed though he was the stone rejected by the builders, you have made him the cornerstone, the rock on which is founded the life that has eternal significance,

All: the life that is hidden for us in Christ until it is revealed to the world as we open ourselves to allowing the Spirit that was in Christ to do its work within and through us as well. We thank you and we praise you O God, both now, and through your Living Word, eternally. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the empty tomb, we come to you this joyful Easterfest with our eyes focused on the signs of new life. Yet the songs we have heard have challenged us to reach beyond the material realm of which we have been so enamored all our lives to allow your Spirit to help us dwell in the place of significance you have prepared us to occupy, so that those who encounter us may experience your presence through us, and those we encounter will trigger in us the ministry we alone and united with you and with one another are capable of providing them. God of the empty tomb, make Christ more fully real to us, and fill us with your Spirit, so that his story may become ours, and ours may extend his to a world in need of your grace. Amen.

AN EASTER EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Lord Jesus, we greet You, risen from the dead, victorious over sin and death, over suffering and shame, over all evil and wrong. [the prayer continues]... We greet you, and we pray with joy and confidence as you taught us, saying **"Our Father..."** (*using "debts...debtors"*)

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

When you are given a piece of the bread, dip it in the cup, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to your comfort and strength.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

God of life, who to free us from our fixation on the materiality of life gave your only begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power that keeps us from giving our whole selves to your purpose for us: grant us so to die daily to our false selves that overvalue the material, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life and our true selves that honor you by responding faithfully to the movement of your Spirit, as he did; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN: Love Now Ascending – Jim Burklo**

Tune: Nicaea

Holy, holy, holy, love now ascending
Early in the morning our song shall rise to you.
Holy, holy, holy, joy that has no ending
Giving, forgiving, breathing life anew.

Holy, holy, holy, love without a limit
Care that binds creation in sacred unity,
Holy, holy, holy, birthing every minute,
Christ, love's revealer, sets our spirits free.

Holy, holy, holy, infinite compassion,
Makes a place for every soul in God's eternal reign,
Holy, holy, holy, truth beyond religion,
Love that endures should nothing else remain.

Holy, holy, holy, raise your voice in singing,
Join the cosmic chorus in praise of love divine,
Holy, holy, holy, God beyond all naming,
Echoes our song in harmony sublime.

***AN EASTER AFFIRMATION**

One: There was darkness over the earth before creation;

All: There is darkness in the womb before birth;

One: The seed grows in darkness before it meets the light;

All: There is darkness in the tomb before resurrection.

One: But now Christ is risen!

All: The dawn has come

One: A new creation has commenced

All: The world is born anew.

One: Christ is Risen.

All: CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

One: Thanks be to God!

All: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! AMEN!

***BENEDICTION**

Go out now as God's chosen witnesses to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him to be true to the image in which each of us has been created. Set your minds on the things of God and do not be afraid, for your life is safe with Christ in God. And may God raise you from all that would entomb you, so that you will rise with a smile that reveals God's radiance. May the resurrected Christ be revealed in and through you as you come on up to the place he has prepared for you to serve. And may the Holy Spirit reshape and empower you for all that you were meant to be and to do. **Amen.**

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You are invited to join us for a time of fellowship and fast-breaking in the manse immediately following the service.

Our thanks to Jimmie Sit and Sean Prendiville for providing us with the music for the service.