

Centenary United Methodist Church
Order of Worship
April 18, 2021 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM
The Third Sunday of Easter

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY (11:00)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

(8:30)

Fairest Lord Jesus
Paul Saik-piano

(11:00)

Fairest Lord Jesus
Paul Saik-organ

GREETING

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You have given me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.
How long, O people, shall my honor suffer shame?
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?
But know that the Lord has set apart the righteous as God's own;
the Lord hears when I call.
Be angry, but do not sin;
commune with your own hearts in your beds, and be silent.
Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the Lord.
There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord!"
You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.
In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

HYMN # 310

He Lives

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him, he's always near.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives
He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see his loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast
The day of his appearing will come at last.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives
He lives within my heart.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;
None other is so loving, so good and kind.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives
He lives within my heart.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of Light and Mercy, be with us this day as we again hear the stories of faith and sight. Help us to believe in your abiding presence with us, both in our darkness and in the light which you bring. Give us courage and strength to witness to your resurrection. For we offer this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

ANTHEM (11:00)

I Then Shall Live
Centenary Choral Ensemble

THE CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

THE EPISTLE

1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

This is the word of God for us the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE 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. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

This is the word of God for us the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

We Are Easter People: Waiting

The Rev. Tom Greener

Christ loves the church, with grace beyond all measure.
We bear his name, for all the world to see.
He will not let us go or let us be,
But chooses earthen vessels for his treasure.

Christ bears the church, corrupted or conforming,
Obsessed with trifles, blessing greed and war.
His love outwits us, spinning gold from straw,
Through saints and prophets, praying and reforming.

Christ feeds the church, and fills us with a vision,
Through praise and preaching, wine and broken bread,
Of sharing people, doing what they've said,
Who win the world's respect, or opposition.

Christ needs the church, to live and tell his story,
To praise his love and marvel at his trust,
Till, bathed in light, awakened from the dust,
We walk with God, alive in grace and glory.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE OFFERING

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THE OFFERTORY

(8:30)

I Then Shall Live
Centenary Choral Ensemble

(11:00)

There's Just Something About That Name
Paul Saik-piano

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

INTERCESSORY REQUESTS AND THANKSGIVINGS

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

HYMN # 364

Because He Lives

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
He came to live, heal, and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.
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.

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 days because he lives.
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.

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.
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 lies.

BENEDICTION

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY (11:00)

POSTLUDE

(8:30)

All Heaven Declares
Paul Saik-piano

(11:00)

The Heavens Declare, Christ Is Risen!
Paul Saik-organ