



April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday

GATHERING

Heather Hinton

GREETING

Darren Cushman Wood

PRELUDE

Intrada on "Easter Hymn"

P. Moore

CALL TO WORSHIP

Darren Cushman Wood

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: The Risen Christ is our strength,

People: who overcomes the power of sin and death!

Leader: The Risen Christ is our hope,

People: who raises us from fear and despair!

Leader: Let the earth rejoice! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN #302

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

***Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!***

***Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!***

***Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!***

***Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jacqueline Blackwell Leonard

**Amazing God,
on this holy day you subverted evil
with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
As the scriptures are read,
reveal your hope and renew our faith
by the power of your life-giving Spirit. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Acts 10:34-43

Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships God and does what is right is acceptable to God. This is the message of peace God sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand,

who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Hallelujah

L. van Beethoven
Voices in Accord

from *Christ on the Mount of Olives*

Hallelujah unto God's Almighty Son. Praise the Lord, ye bright angelic choirs,
in holy songs of joy. We, proclaim God's grace and glory.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Amy Sell

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say,

People: 'God's steadfast love endures forever.'

Leader: The Lord is my strength and my might;

People: God has become my salvation.

Leader: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

**People: 'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
the right hand of God is exalted;
the right hand of our Sovereign does valiantly.'**

Leader: I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

God has punished me severely,
but did not give me over to death.

**People: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.**

Leader: This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

**People: I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**People: This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN OF PRAYER #307

Christ Is Risen

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

Leader: God, in your mercy....

People: Hear our prayer.

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.**

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

EASTER OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Umoja Partnership

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

[And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterwards Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Good Power: The Power to Live

Darren Cushman Wood

ANTHEM

And Can It Be?

D. Forrest
Voices in Accord

And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be? And can it be that I should gain an interest in my Savior's blood? Died he for me who caused his pain? For me who him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above, so free, so infinite his grace; emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race; 'tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.

And can it be? Amazing love how can it be? No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in him is mine! Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown through Christ my own. Amazing love, how can it be that thou, my God shouldst die for me.

HYMN OF DEDICATION #364

Because He Lives

***God sent his 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.***

***Refrain: 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 they give;
but greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because he lives. [Refrain]***

***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. [Refrain]***

BLESSING

Leader: Go forth with joy. Jesus Christ is risen!

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: You are witnesses to the resurrection,
messengers of the everlasting peace,
and servants of the eternal hope!

People: Christ shall reign forever! Hallelujah!

Leader: Grace and peace to all through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Halleluiahs Chorus
from Messiah*

G. F. Handel

POSTLUDE

*Toccata
from Symphony No. 5*

C. M. Widor

*The flowers on the altar are given with thanksgiving to God and in loving memory of Frank Hirschman,
April 9, 1936 - March 21, 2009, by Sue Hirschman, Ann Cottingham, Susan and Andy McBride,
John and Leigh Ann Hirschman and grandchildren.*

Today's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*
Amy Sell, *Minister of Discipleship & Formation*
Jacqueline Blackwell Leonard, *Liturgist*
John Hague & James Horton, *Audio Visual*
Mark Gilgallon, *Director of Music*
Heather Hinton, *Organist*