A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023
*All who are able may stand.

GATHERING . . .

The Prelude
My Lord, What a Morning arr. Robert Lau

The Welcome and Announcements
This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Introit
Christ is Alive!

The Call To Worship
If you would seek the Lord,
look to the rock from which you were hewn.

God brings us comfort, turning the wilderness into Eden,
a desert into a garden.

God’s justice is offered as a light to the people.

Look up, look down, look all around,
and see how God’s salvation has gone out,
how God’s arm lifts us in hope.

The Prayer of Adoration

God of glory, we look to you in gratitude and hope because of Christ’s rising from the dead and his eternal rule over all the earth. Raise us not only to eternal life, but raise us up in hope and in a longing for justice, for more than we have yet seen. Awaken us by unsettling us with your presence, until we learn to recognize you on ordinary days and in ordinary places. Then, we pray, help us worship and glorify you each day. Amen.

*The Hymn 53

O God, Who Gives Us Life

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
Who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
To plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
When we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
Refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
Your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
As on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

*The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we are slow to perceive your presence in our lives, and slower still to respond in faithfulness and generosity. Forgive us when, covered in our own busy-ness and concerns, we fail to recognize you and struggle to hear and heed your call. Clear away our distractions. Forgive our hearts, which are sometimes so slow to believe. Help us to be alert and awake to all you ask of us, so that we may welcome you into our lives, our homes, our church...

...silent prayer...Amen
*Assurance of Pardon

Because Christ lives, we also shall live in joy and great hope.

*By God's mercy, we have all received grace upon grace. 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

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ’s peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD. . .**

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 51:1-6*

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalm 34:1-10*

The Anthem  
**Stay With Us**  
Egil Hovland

Stay with us, Lord, stay with us. Stay with us, it soon is evening, and night is falling.
Jesus Christ, the world’s true light! Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it!

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening, Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling.

Let your light pierce the darkness and fill your church with its glory.

Stay with us, Lord, stay with us. Stay with us, it soon is evening, and night is falling.

The Epistle Lesson: *1 Peter 1:17-23*  
*p. 282 in the pew Bible*

A Moment with the Children

*The Hymn 246

**Christ Is Alive!**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

*p. 109 in the pew Bible*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon  
**Resilience for the Road**  
Kim Clayton

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD. . .**

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Prayers of the People

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.

Tithes and Offerings Presented

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Doxology, Hymn 606

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

GOING FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD’S NAME

*The Hymn 767

Together We Serve

Together we serve, united by love, inviting God’s world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending God’s love to the last and the least.

We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.

*The Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Grand Triumphant Chorus

Alexandre Guilmant

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preacher: Kim Clayton
Liturgists: Lynn Simms, Brittany Harvey
Choir Masters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey
Organist: Amy Shirk