



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Easter Sunday

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, pastor
Jim Rumsey, liturgist

March 31, 2024

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:1-12

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Introit

Processional on Hallelujah
MICHAEL R. KELLER, arr.

Westminster Ringers
Carol Fleeger, director

Call to Worship

One: Yesterday we thought death had won.

All: Yesterday we thought all was lost.

One: Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

All: But not today.

One: Today we know that love has won.

All: Today we know that hope is real.

One: Today we know that Christ is here.

All: We have a reason to hope.

One: We have a reason to sing!

All: Alleluia!

One: Alleluia!

All: Christ is risen today.

* **Hymn of Praise**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
EASTER HYMN

Glory to God #232

* **Call To Confession**

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

One: In the Gospel of Luke, the women come to the tomb, and to their surprise, instead of finding Jesus, they find angels. The angels tell the women, "Jesus is not here," and when that answer is met with confusion, the angels say, "Remember what he told you." Remember. It's one of the words Jesus used at his last supper, and it's one of the first words we hear at the empty tomb. Remember.

I think this call to remember is why we need the prayer of confession and these words of forgiveness every single week. It's not enough to hear of God's grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week. We need to be reminded that God's grace and mercy will never run out.

So friends, let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb. Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can remember. Join me in the prayer of confession:

* **Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

The stone is rolled away! We assume it is a mistake. The angels say, "He is not here!" We assume their news is fake. The women tell the story, but we do not want to hear it. Peter runs to the tomb, but we do not understand.

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb is nothing more than a prank. Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death. Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world. Teach us to see what you see. Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

* **Silent Prayers of Confession**

* **Pouring the Water**

* **Declaration of Forgiveness** Jim Rumsey, liturgist
One: The angels tell the women, "Remember what Jesus told you." So, church, remember this: You are seen. You are forgiven. You are held in God's grace. All of this is true. Grace and mercy abound for you. Remember this. Amen!

* **Passing the Peace** Jim Rumsey, liturgist
One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

* **Hymn** *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI
*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

Children's Moment Helen Hutchison

Prayer of Illumination Jim Rumsey, liturgist
God of new beginnings, on that first Easter morning, the disciples struggled to hear the good news. Doubt clouded their minds. Negativity took root and hope vanished with a simple shake of their heads. As we return to this familiar text, help us to hear differently this morning. Open our ears that we might hear the sound of Alleluias ringing through this text. Open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter might feel within reach. Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable. And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray, amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading Isaiah 65:17-25 Jim Rumsey, liturgist

Special Music *Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord* Chancel Choir
JOEL RANEY Angela Pérez, director
Cole Bichelmeyer, trumpet David Pérez, piano

Sermon "And I Hope" Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Hymn *Thine Is the Glory* **Glory to God #238**
JUDAS MACCABEUS

Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer (as translated by the Maori people)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

Call To Offering

Offering

An Easter Cry of Praise
JOEL RANEY
Trumpet Ensemble
Cole Bichelmeyer, Aidan Hamer, Billy Sharp

Chancel Choir
Angela Pérez, director
David Pérez, piano

* Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Glory to God #606

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

* Prayer of Dedication

* Affirmation of Faith

We may weep through the longest nights. We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers. We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more. But today, we are a people of hope.

We believe in new beginnings. We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death. We believe that Jesus abides among us, healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world. We believe that a tomb could not hold him. We believe that the sun does rise. We believe that Peter was there with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed. We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us. Today we are a people of hope.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus
from *Messiah* by G.F. HANDEL
Everyone is invited to come up to sing!

David Pérez, organist

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

Welcome!

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and be in community with us! Whether you are joining us virtually or in-person; as a long-time member or a first-time guest, we are happy to have you with us. **Please be sure to sign the Friendship Pad if you are worshipping with us in person.** If you join us on-line, live, or recorded - **please send us an email letting us know you joined us in worship.** Interested in learning more about joining the church? Contact Pastor Helen at 785-843-4171.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- We celebrate with Djifa Gavi and Joel that their husband and father, **Kassenge Soklou** has been cleared to travel to the United States. They are making arrangements for his travel. They have been waiting a very long time for this news.
- **Tonja and Adam Rounds** ask for our prayers as Tonja recovers from brain surgery. The MRI showed that they removed all the tumor, and we are grateful for that good news!

- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Mark Schoneweis, Mark Shiflett, Larry Maxey

Greeters: Eva Alley, Diana Schoneweis

Securing the Offering: Jeff Southard and Jim Rumsey

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Julie Simon

Care

Deacon Family Groups - 2024

A-Ca	Charles Tuttle	N-Q	Peggy Southard
Ce-Do	Janet Adams	Mc-Mz	Becky May
Dr-F	Diana Schoneweis	R-Si	Linda Longino
G-Ha	Larry Schlosser	Sl-T	Russ Heikes
He-Ko	Mary Warren	U-Z	Allen Macfarlane
Kr-Ma	Lois Dutcher		

