

Worship Outline  
Easter  
April 21, 2019

## Gathering

Prelude

*Christ Arose!*

Robert Lowry

Jean Thompson, organ & Peggy Mayfield, piano

+Opening Sentences (responsive) - Steve Chamberlin

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

+Prayer of Adoration - Steve

Let us pray...

Glory to you, O God:

you have won victory over death,

raising Jesus from the grave

and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ:

for us and for our salvation you overcame death

and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:

you lead us in the truth.

Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity,

now and forever. Amen.

+Hymn of Praise 232

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Unison Prayer of Confession - Steve

The Lord says: Come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**God, we confess to you**

**that while we know well the story of your victory over the grave,**

**it is not a story we always live.**

**We are dragged down by all manner of death –  
Fear may suffocate us: the loss of dreams and hopes  
for ourselves, our families, our communities and our nation.  
Sorrow may wall us off like a grave,  
isolating us with anger, frustration, and grief.**

*Silence*

**Yet the smooth stones of our faith are inscribed  
not with the marks of death,  
but with the word, “Alleluia!”  
So on this Easter morning,  
we pray that you will fill us with “fear and great joy”  
so that, like those women who came to the tomb expecting death,  
we may instead find the radiant new life  
that is ever before us in your Resurrection! Amen.**

Assurance (responsive)  
Just as Christ did not come to condemn but to liberate,  
so too is Christ raised from death not to judge but to celebrate.  
Cast off the yoke of sorrow and instead raise up the scepter of joy –  
Christ lives! We live!  
All is made new on this Resurrection morning!  
**Alleluia and amen!**

+Welcome and the Peace  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

+Gathering Song 243

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!  
Christ is risen, alleluia!  
Be not afraid; sing out for joy!  
Christ is risen, alleluia!

**Sharing the Story**

Opening the Word with Young Disciples -

## Easter 2019 Children's Message

Good morning and thanks for coming up. Today is Easter Sunday – probably the biggest day all year for the church. And I would like your help telling the story. Should we ask all these people to help us too? (gesture to the congregation).

Okay, here's what we're going to do. In the story, there is an earthquake. What should we do to show we're in an earthquake. (Have kids do it)

Great! So everytime you hear "earthquake" that's what you do. Got it?

Okay, now we'll give roles to everyone else.

**Choir**, when I say "He is not here..." you respond "He is risen!"

**Left side**: When you hear "He is risen", this section says "Allelulia"

**Right side**: When you hear "the angel said" or "Jesus said" then you say "Go & Tell"

**Loft**: When you hear "inside" you shout "the tomb was empty"

Let's practice...

**Leader**: He is not here:

Choir: He is risen:

Left side: Allelulia

**Leader**: The angel said: STEVE: Go & Tell

**Leader**: Jesus said: STEVE: Go & Tell

**Leader**: Inside: Right: the tomb was empty

I think we've got it.

Are we ready?

Okay, on Good Friday Jesus was hung on the cross. When he took his last breath, there was a big EARTHQUAKE (children)...and the world went dark.

They took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. Early on Sunday morning, the women went to the tomb. As they approached, suddenly there was a big

EARTHQUAKE (children) and an angel descended, rolling away the stone.

Inside THE TOMB WAS EMPTY (loft)

The angel spoke saying “He is not here HE IS RISEN” (choir) “ALLELULIA” (left)

Then the angel said “GO AND TELL.” (steve)

As the women were running to tell the disciples, they met Jesus. Jesus said, “GO AND TELL” (Steve

That “He is not here” HE IS RISEN! (choir) ALLELULIA (left side) and when the stone was rolled away, there was a big EARTHQUAKE. (children)

Great!

Should we do it one more time, even faster?

As Jesus took his last breath on the cross, there was a big EARTHQUAKE

They put Jesus body in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front. As the women came to the tomb on Sunday morning, there was a big EARTHQUAKE and an angel rolled away the stone. Inside THE TOMB WAS EMPTY. The angel spoke saying He is not here HE IS RISEN. ALLELULIA.

The angel said, “GO AND TELL.” They went and met Jeus who said, GO AND TELL

This is the story of Easter that “He is not here HE IS RISEN. ALLULIA.” As the angel said, GO AND TELL!

Amen!

Prayer for Illumination - Steve

Let us pray.

Living God, with joy we celebrate  
the presence of your risen Word.

Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit

so that we may proclaim the good news  
of eternal and abundant life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture - Steve

Matthew 28: 1-10

A reading from the gospel of Matthew. Hear the word of the Lord.

1 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

This is the good news we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva

Anthem

*Lift Your Voice and Sing, He Is Risen*  
Larson  
Chancel Choir

### **Service of Baptism**

Book of Common Worship page 407

Presentation - intro Liz

Sentences of Scripture (responsive) PEGGY

Just as the body is one and has many members,  
and all the members of the body, though many,  
are one body, so it is with Christ.

**In the one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.**

**We are the body of Christ,  
and individually members of it.**

Peggy: On behalf of the session, I present Brynn, child of Amanda and Kevin to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Profession of Faith (Liz: BCW 408)

**I believe in the God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will 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.**

Thanksgiving over the Water  
The Baptism

Laying on of Hands  
Welcome

## **Eucharist**

+Hymn 247

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

Offering

Invitation - Steve

We are witnesses to the power of the Holy Spirit and the glory of God,  
and now we turn in thanksgiving to share the good news  
of forgiveness and grace to all the world.  
Let these our gifts be a living testimony  
to those who most need the healing grace of Christ this morning,  
cornerstones of faith and joy for the entire world.

Offertory

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*  
arr. Kevin M. Chesney  
Handbell

Choir

+Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore,  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

+Unison Prayer of Dedication - Steve

Let us pray together.

**O God, you have become our light and our salvation –  
let these gifts open the gates of joy  
to all who hunger and thirst for your holy presence  
on this and every day.**

**May they bear the gifts of Alleluia which we hold so dear,  
and give away with great joy.  
We pray in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus the Christ! Amen.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Jesus met his disciples—women and men, young and old—  
and invited them into his new life.

Jesus still meets his disciples—women and men, young and old—  
and invites us into his new life.

That new life begins, as any life begins, with water and bread.

At this table, we receive the bread of new life.

At this table, we are called together from many individuals into one body.

At this table, we are strengthened to go answer Christ's call.

This table is not mine, and it does not belong to this church.

This is not a Presbyterian table.

All of us, no matter who we are, or what we have done, or where we are on life's journey, are as  
welcome here as Peter and Joanna and Mary and James were at the first table.

The risen Christ is the host, and he bids us come and celebrate the feast,  
to know the power of resurrection, the joy of heaven, the glory of God's grace.

Great Thanksgiving (Liz: BCW p. 302)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Pastor continues the prayer...*

Remembering your goodness and grace,  
we offer ourselves to you with gratitude  
as we share this joyful feast.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**



*Pastor continues the prayer...*

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.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

### **Sending**

+Hymn 239

Good Christians, All Rejoice and Sing!

+Blessing and Charge (responsive)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all. **Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
in the power of his resurrection. **Amen.**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen!**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen!**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

+Congregational Benediction 591 (refrain)

*Halle, halle, hal-le-lu-jah!*

*Halle, halle, hal-le-lu-jah!*

*Halle, halle, hal-le-lu-jah!*

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Over the last several years my thinking concerning Easter has become more and more simplified. I don't spend nearly as much time trying to understand, explain, or make sense of what happened. I am more comfortable with accepting the story at face value.

You know the story as well as I do. Jesus died on a cross. He was laid in a tomb. It was sealed. On the third day the "very large stone" over the entrance was rolled back. Women go looking for the body. A messenger says, "He has been raised; he is not here." The tomb is empty and Christ is risen.

I have no explanations for any of that. But I have experiences of that. I've seen it happen in my life and in your lives. I read it everywhere in the scriptures. Today's resurrection story isn't new. It's the pinnacle of what God has been doing all along. The Scriptures declare that God has always been in the life-giving business.

- Have you ever been freed from patterns and behaviors that impoverished and diminished your life? Isn't that a new life? Isn't that a retelling of the Israelites escaping the bondage of Egypt?
- Have you ever had new insights into your life, a new way of seeing the world, another person, or yourself? Every blind man whose eyes were opened by Jesus experienced new life, a resurrection.
- Have you ever felt stuck, and without energy or direction in life? Remember the lame man and Jesus saying, "Stand up, take your mat and walk?" That's resurrection.
- What about Jesus cleansing the temple? Haven't there been times when you cleaned out and made a new start? Maybe that was your resurrection.
- Have you ever felt the presence of a loved one who has died? You knew she or he was there. Maybe you spoke to him or heard her voice. More resurrection.
- What about the raising of Lazarus? "Unbind him and let him go," Jesus said. When has your life been unbound? When have you experienced a new freedom that released and enlarged your life?

- Think about a time when it felt as if new life had been breathed into you. You felt a new sense of energy, enthusiasm, creativity, and everything was fresh and beautiful. That's the resurrecting breath of God blowing through your valley of dry bones.
- Recall a friend who said or did exactly what you needed when you were in a desolate place and you hadn't asked for a thing. He or she nourished your life in the same way Jesus fed the multitude in the wilderness.
- Have you ever had a relationship that you were sure could not be salvaged? There was nothing left. The hurt was too deep and the distance too wide. And then one day a letter is sent, a phone call is made, or a conversation is started. Something changes and the stone is rolled back.

These kind of things are happening all time in thousands of ways. I've come to believe that there are really only two questions to be asked about the Easter story. One question we bring to this day. The other is a question with which we leave this day. The two questions stand as bookends to the story.

The first question is this. Is it still true? Is this story true in your life and my life today? That's the question we bring to this day. It's not because we think the story might have changed since last year. It's because our story has changed. Our life is different today from what it was last Easter, and we want to be reminded that Easter is still real. That's why we show up here every year to hear the same old story.

So let me be clear about this. In whatever ways your life has changed and is different from last Easter, whether you consider it for better, for worse, or a mixture of both, the story is still true. Regardless of who you are, what you've done, or left undone, Easter is still happening. You can count on it. The story was true yesterday, it is true today, and it will be true tomorrow. It may take months or even years for resurrection to free us from the tomb and pull us out of the darkness but it will. That is the promise of today. God never leaves anyone in the darkness of the tomb.

The large stones of our lives are being rolled back. Our tombs are being emptied. And the messenger is still proclaiming the good news, "He has been raised; he is not here."

That's why the church is so bright and beautiful, filled with light, candles, flowers and rosemary, and alleluias. Those are not just decorations and songs, they are God's truth about your life and my life. They are the signs of Easter truth and resurrection reality.

That truth and reality will once again be expressed in just a few moments when we baptize Brynn. I want you to look at the beauty of her face and the innocence of her life. Lose yourself in the wonder, awe, and miracle of creation and human life. See all the potential, possibilities, and discoveries that lay before her. Imagine God's wildest dream for her life. Name and offer your best prayers, thoughts, hopes, and joys for her. And after you do all that, know that you've just described resurrection, for her and for yourself.

Easter is not just something from the past to be looked at and celebrated. It is the lens through which we are to see everything. It's a life to be lived. Getting Jesus out of the tomb is not the ultimate goal of Easter. Easter is about our new life. That means that today is not the end of the story. It's the beginning. The most important part of Easter is not what happens today. What matters most about Easter is what we do tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after that.

"He is going ahead of you," said the young man dressed in a white robe to the women. He is going ahead of us rolling back stones, emptying tombs, preparing new places, and calling forth life. Every cross is flowering with new life, every tomb is becoming a womb of new birth, and every darkness is being overcome by new light.

Easter happens in the Galilee of our lives: the hometown, the familiar places, the usual relationships, the ordinary circumstances. Easter happens in the everydayness of life.

And that brings me to my second question, the question with which I want you to leave here today. What will you do with your new and precious life (adapted from "The Summer Day" by Mary Oliver)? What difference will today make tomorrow?

"He has been raised; he is not here." "He is going ahead of you to Galilee."

If we leave here today the same people we were as when we came we've missed the point of this day. Easter isn't the annual remembrance and celebration of an event in history. It's here and

now. It's a new way of being. It is a new way of living. Easter is less a noun and more a verb. So tell me this. What will Eastering look like for you tomorrow?

Don't be afraid, go and tell.

Tell the story of Jesus –

The story of compassion,

of grace,

of inclusion,

of acceptance,

of healing,

of liberation.

Tell it in words and actions

Tell it with your time and your money,

with your voice and your hands,

tell the story of love with your life.

Don't be afraid, go and tell