

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



EASTER/RESURRECTION SUNDAY

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

APRIL 9, 2023 10:30AM

Grace Notes

Welcome to WHPC! If you are visiting us today, we are so glad you joined us for worship. If you have not already, please take a moment to record your contact information on the visitor card you will find in the pew and drop it in the offering box or hand it to a greeter at the door. We are always glad to share the great things happening at WHPC!

If you are looking for a new church home and would like to join in fellowship with Westover Hills, please join us in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) and we will gladly share more about life at WHPC or, if you are ready, receive you into membership.

Childcare is available in the nursery. Please check with a greeter.

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP Dr. Robert Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE

"Allegro" from Handel's Harp Concerto
"Morning Has Broken" arr. Watson
Alisa Coffey, Harp

+CALL TO WORSHIP

The tomb is dark, but empty

The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness

The stone has been rolled away

The one you are looking for has overcome death

The burial clothes are put aside

The one you are looking for is alive!

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Let us worship our Lord of Life!

+OPENING PRAYER

When the day is quiet
and the world still sleeps
and the morning is crisp
and love breathes again
we praise you, O God of resurrection

When the time is now
and the moment is on us
and the place is here
and the grave clothes are folded
we praise you, O God of renewal

When the day is new
and the sun is fresh
and the light is clean
and the stone has rolled
we praise you, O God of empty tombs

Now we see the world differently
What we thought was the way of things, yesterday

Grace Notes

is no longer the way of things today
death was yesterday
new life is today
tombs were sealed
now they are open
love was dead
now is alive again
death has been given a make-over
endings have a new perspective
things work differently now. Alleluia. Amen.

Easter is the day above all others when we celebrate that ours is a God who gives life in the face of death. On this day we celebrate that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. We celebrate that our sins are always forgiven by God's mercy and grace. We celebrate that in Christ we have newness of life.

So why have a prayer of confession? The answer is simple; because although God forgives us before we can even ask, the asking is spiritually healthy for us. Confession is not fundamentally about guilt but honesty. When we confess our sins we are honest with God, one another, and ourselves. That honesty in spirit sets us on a better path for relationships and faith.

+ ΟΡΕΠΙΓ ΣΟΠΓ ΟΦ ΡΑΙΣΕ #123 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

EASTER HYMN

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ has risen and we have risen to new life with him.
Yet we must confess the ways that we have continued to remain in our tombs of sin and death. Together let us confess our sins, embrace the promise of the risen Christ, and stand together in the light of God's grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Living Lord, when we stand before the empty tomb
we don't always feel the joy of resurrection.
We feel fear, doubt, and distrust.
We feel empty.
Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of new life.
Forgive our doubt of your love.
Forgive our distrust of your surprising, joyous plan.
Fill our emptiness with your glorious light.
Raise us to abundant new life for the glory of your name.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

+ ΣΥΠΓ ΡΕΣΠΟΝΣΕ "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

GLORY TO GOD

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the
2 World without end, γ with-out end. A-men. World without
Son, whose grace has par - doned me, and to the
end, γ with - out end. A - men. World with-out
Spir - it, whose love has set me free. As it
end, γ with - out end. A - men.
was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. A - men.

Grace Notes

Like the other gospels, Matthew describes a scene where the women who followed Jesus arrive before others. Despite what some traditions would claim, women have been teaching since the very first moments of the church!

The one distinction in Matthew's account is that Jesus speaks directly to the disciples once they arrive and they recognize him. He says to them, "Greetings."

The Belhar Confession was adopted as part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Confessions in 2016.

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ which passes all understanding be with you all.

And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've given the message to you."

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."

SERMON

"Stop Under-Thinking It"

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE #106 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" ALLELUIA NO. 1

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Belhar Confession

We believe:

that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin and must be resisted;

that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;

- ◆ **in that we love one another;**
- ◆ **that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another;**
- ◆ **that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.**

We confess these things in the hope of the risen Christ who calls us to unity, fellowship, and peace.

Grace Notes

Composer Lloyd Larson, graduate of both Anderson University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, is a noted piano and choral composer.

He has published numerous pieces as well as collections of his music ranging from Christmas cantatas to a contemporary Tenebrae service.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) observes open communion. This simply means that all who wish to share in the meal are welcome to receive the bread and the cup.

All bread is gluten free and all cups contain non-alcoholic grape juice.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“At the Name of Jesus”

arr. Lloyd Larson

(Choir)

*At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess Him King of glory now;
'tis our Maker's pleasure that we should call Him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.*

*Humbled for a season, to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom He came,
faithfully He bore it spotless to the end,
brought it back victorious, Jesus, Savior, Friend.*

*In your hearts enthrone Him; there let Him subdue
all that is not holy, all that is not true,
Crown Him King of glory in temptation's hour;
Crown Him and let His will enfold you in its light and power.*

(Congregation Please stand and Join)

1 All hail the power of Je-sus' name! Let an-gels pros-trate fall; bring
forth the roy-al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all! Bring
forth the roy-al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!

(Choir)

*At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
and every tongue confess Him King, King of glory now!
Crown Him Lord of all!*

WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Grace Notes

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC “*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*”

arr. Barnwell

“*All Creatures of Our God and King*”

arr. McDonald

Alisa Coffey, Harp

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

*PARTING HYMN “*Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*”

SUO GAN

This traditional Welsh melody literally translates to “lullaby” or “lull song.” The origins are unclear, however the tune was recorded on paper as early as 1800 and the text of the lullaby by the mid 1800’s.

The text of the lullaby is focused on the safety the child is invited to feel in the loving care of a parent’s watchful eye.

This modern text by John Bell and Graham Maule begins with traditional Easter imagery but continues to less traditional claims about the breadth of the promise found in resurrection. In the third verse, the hymn even says that Christ is risen for “*all whose lives are messed and mangled, all who find religion strange.*”



1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,
2 Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;
3 Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-enge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.
Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.
all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Grace Notes

Easter is not the end of the season of Lent but the beginning of the season of resurrection and new life.

Our prayer for you today is that you encounter newness of life and renewal in your spirit in the coming days and weeks. In this broken and hurting world, please take a little time to share some light and love with the world.

Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:

let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

“Lasst Uns Erfreuen”

arr. Anna Laura Page

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY are Pastor Robert Lowry, Music Director David Austin, Liturgist Julie Naylor, guest musician Alisa Coffey, and the Westover Hills Chancel Choir.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC TODAY is made possible by a gift from Charlie and Charlotte Frith in honor of their granddaughter Townley Frith and grandson Fletcher Hope.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MIDWEEK MANNA BIBLE STUDY meets on Wednesdays at 12:05. The weekly group meets from 12:05-12:55 to give those who work and want to participate time to join during lunch. This week we begin a study of Ezekiel.

NEW YEAR NEW YOU YOGA meets Thursdays in the New Chapel at 10am. This low-impact exercise is for all comers and is a great way to keep in shape and stay flexible.

A WESTOVER HILLS EASTER EGG HUNT FOR ALL AGES will happen immediately following worship on Easter Sunday in the area of the church south lawn. There will be no space separations by age; so seniors can help the younger ones who can share back their excitement for the hunt. Easter bags for collecting eggs will be provided. Let's have a hoppy hunt together!

SAVE THE DATE April 29th is free shred day in the South Parking Lot. If you have any documents that need to be shredded bring them on down. Free shredding will be available from 9:00 to 11:00am, so tell all your friends and family!

SESSION NOTES FROM THE APRIL SESSION MEETING

- ◆ Approved minutes from the 1-22-23 congregational meeting, 2-12-23 session meeting, and 3-5-23 called meeting to receive new members.
- ◆ Gave permission to Presbyterians for Earthcare to use the New Chapel on September 21 as a remote viewing location for their national conference.
- ◆ Approved the dates for Treats and Treasures set-up and sale. The sale is the weekend of August 12.
- ◆ Received reports from the pastor, committees, and deacons.

◆ Acted to adopt a final 2023 budget. The budget reflects adjustments to several line items to reflect the increased cost of operations and utilities. The budget also incorporates the salary increases for support staff approved to start in January. The total operating budget (including debt maintenance on the mortgage) is \$391,353. This total represents a projected deficit of \$25,863. The session has approved a short supplemental stewardship campaign for April to close this small gap in funding.

◆ Approved financial statements through February. NB: Financial statements are available to all members by request.

◆ Adopted a policy concerning religious leaders of other traditions who have been expelled or excluded from ministry while under investigation.

◆ Named the Friths as delegates to the Presbyterian Village Assembly for supporting congregations.

◆ Heard a report from the Matthew 25 Church Vitality group about plans for a May congregation-wide supper. Details and dates will follow in the CareLine.

◆ Named four elders to develop a process for new member orientation and welcome. Members include Ray Stephens, Liz Branch, Roy Nash, and Julie Naylor.

◆ Named two elders to work with other knowledgeable members of the church to develop a plan for re-launched Fellowship ministry. Members include Betty Glenn and Tammy Pflug. *NB: Like many churches, Westover's Fellowship ministry processes and procedures were deeply impacted by COVID shutdowns. As has been expressed by many members, Fellowship ministry is essential.*

◆ Approved the application of "The Collective," a discernment group considering forming a new Presbyterian worshipping community focused on LGBTQIA+ people. This group, led by Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell, meets monthly for fellowship and a potluck as well as other occasional gatherings. Their leadership team, "The People," meet monthly in the Hardie Chapel. Pastor Robert and Rev. Michael Gallup of the Table are both members of the discernment group. *NB: If approved for the discernment seed grant, Westover Hills will be the only PC(USA) church in the nation with two 1001 New Worship Communities under one roof. To learn more about the Table and the Collective, see the newsletter mailed to homes this week.*

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PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS Val (friend of Pastor Robert's who is undergoing treatment for cancer in Pittsburgh); Carol-Ann Blow (health issues); Shirley Garlington (auto accident in Texas); Rev. Marion Humphrey and family (death of his mother, Doris Pendleton); Mark Jennings (friend of Pastor Robert's- recovering from a stroke); Miriam Holt (Liz Branch's sister- recovering from a fall); Michael Thompson (Son of Alice Ahart's friend- diagnosed with leukemia); Vivianna McAtee; Andrea Campbell; Jane Estes (recovery from long haul Covid and toxic mold healing and remediation of their home); Betty Glenn (recovering at home); Mary Chrisman (broken arm); Jonathon Simpson (friend of Ann Patterson, awaiting kidney transplant); Chriztine and the people of Ukraine (Ukraine collaborator with the WHPC PW on 2013 water project, Chriztine has moved to Hungary for safety); Ljubica and Stanislav Radovic (volleyball coach Tanja Eckart's parents who live in Croatia, anxiety over nearby war); Barry Wood (grandfather of Sydney- awaiting heart surgery); Survivors of recent tornadoes in MS and AL; Earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria; Community impacted by shootings at The Covenant School in Nashville, TN; TLC (at home) members; church staff: Pastor Robert, Ulysses, David, Tammy, Sydney and Shawn; Preschool kids, families and staff.

DEACONS FOR APRIL are Nancy Blackstone and Joy Thomas.

CALENDAR

The church calendar is available on the website

(scan QR code or visit www.westoverhills.org to be directed to our website)



WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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