



Welcome!

Enter in SILENCE

Wait with REVERENCE

Worship from JOY

WELCOME TO *church*

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9, 2023

Enter in SILENCE

Wait with REVERENCE

Worship from JOY

PRELUDE: *Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn*
BWV 630 by JS Bach

Alphons Gunther

PROVIDING RELIEF FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, AND SUPPORT
FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



MATTHEW 25

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFFIRMATION OF MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement

**As disciples of Jesus Christ,
led by the Holy Spirit,
we experience God's unconditional love,
and we witness to others
by discovering and sharing our gifts.**

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Sing praise to our Easter God, who changed sadness into gladness and took tears of night,

**People: And dried them with morning light.
Christ is risen!**

Leader: Sing praise to our Easter God, who rolled away the stone of despair,

**People: And places hope forever in the air.
Christ is risen!**

Leader: Sing praise to God, who visits us beside the seashore,

**People: Teaching us always to love and adore.
Christ is risen!**

Leader: From the prayers of our hearts to praise that flows from our lips:

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: With grateful hearts and joyful praise, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 123 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

***Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!***

***Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!***

***But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!***

Cont'd.

***Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host,
Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(with silent contemplation and in unison)*

God of Christ's resurrection, for the glorious wonder of this moment and movement, we offer you our thanks and praise. We thank you for bringing new beginnings to our dead ends and rekindling the grace of hope in time of despair.

Forgive us of our hesitant action, our cautious compassion, and our reluctant acknowledgment of your redemption. Fill us with your liberating, resurrecting, refreshing power that we may live faithfully, walk hopefully, and look joyfully for the day when we inherit heavenly citizenship in your eternal Kingdom; in the name of the risen Lord, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Friends — hear, believe, and claim the good news of God's powerful, life transforming, joy-generating love!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Let us forgive one another.**

* CHRIST'S VICTORY SONG:

No. 108 Christ Is Alive! (v. 1)

***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.***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

Please share Christ's peace by using the peace sign
or by waving to those in the Sanctuary.

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY:

*Our God has blessed us, so let us extend
God's Blessing as we present our Tithes and Offerings.
Please remember to be faithful stewards of your
church family with your prayers, your time,
talent, and your financial resources.*

Contributions may also be made:

- *Electronically on the church website at fpcb-nj.org;*
- *By electronic withdrawal from your checking account; or by*
- *Mailing your offering to the church:
P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ.*

* DOXOLOGY: *No. 122 Thine Is the Glory* (v. 1 with refrain)

***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes
Where Thy body lay.***

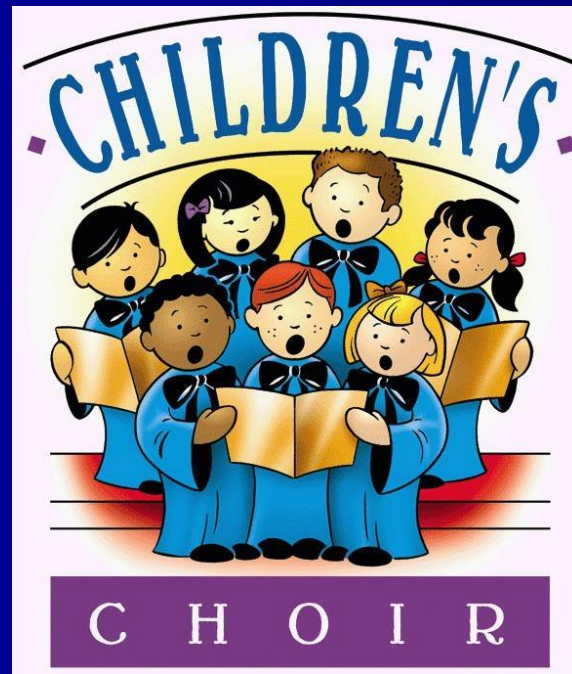
Refrain:

***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

Children's Choir led by Doris Sless
Accompanied by Maggie Morokutti



DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 3: 10–14

The power of the resurrection is a glorious thing.

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, **11** if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. **13** Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 28: 1–10

Mary Magdalene experiences the living Lord.

28 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, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

Cont'd.

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 and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

ANTHEM:

This is my Beloved Son
by Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir

MEDITATION:

Pastor David Harvey

Grace at the Grave

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *1 Corinthians 15: 1–6, Colossians 1: 19–20*

L: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are being saved, if we hold firmly to the message proclaimed:

P: **That Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

* COMMUNION HYMN: *No. 118 The Day of Resurrection!*

***The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From this world unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.***

***Our hearts be pure from evil,
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light;***

Cont'd

***And listening to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.***

***Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen,
Our joy that hath no end.***

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

L: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

P: People will come from East and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

L: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.

P: God sent the whole world God's only Son. Since God loved us so much, we too, should love one another.

L: This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites all who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared. Listen to these precious and gracious words of the Lord Jesus:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. "

Matthew 11: 28–30

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come into them and eat with them, and they with me.

Revelation 3: 20

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God our thanks
and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, & THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Leader: Holy Lord . . . as we pray together:

All: As we have eaten the bread and consumed the cup, O God, may the power of Christ's redemptive love become alive within us. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, when we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. In Jesus' name we joyfully pray together

**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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

OFFERING OF THE ELEMENTS:

Approach the Table, receive the bread,
take the cup, and return to your pew.

SHARING THE BREAD:

Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* (Jn. 6:37) Let us eat this bread in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit that is in him be in us also.

DRINKING THE CUP:

Jesus said, *"I am the vine, you are the branches, apart from him, we can do nothing."* Drink this cup in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit in which he died be our Spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING:

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: Awesome God, we give you thanks for the hope we have in Jesus, who died, is risen and reigns over all. Because he lives, we look forward to eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come shall ever separate us from your magnificent, mysterious, and miraculous love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 122 Thine Is the Glory*

*Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes Where Thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.*

*Lo! Jesus meets us, Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, Scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness Hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; Death hath lost its sting.
Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.*

Cont'd

***No more we doubt Thee, Glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without Thee; Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
Through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan To Thy home above.
Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.***

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION:

Chancel Choir

ORGAN POSTLUDE:

Tim Topolski

nun Danket Alle Gott BWV 657 by JS Bach

Our Worship has ended —our Christian Witness begins!

CHRIST
IS RISEN
INDEED

Alleluia