



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RESURRECTION OF THE LORD – MARCH 31, 2024
8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

This past Lent, we entered our sanctuary for the worship services by stepping into the **Wilderness** to be led by the Spirit of God, gentle and restless. Through liturgy, prayers, sermon, scripture, and song we found ourselves shaped and formed by discovering that the wilderness is a "place of beginnings," of "mystery and unknown," of "isolation," of "disruption," of "resilient life", and a place where "we can be brave."

On this Easter morning, we discover that the wilderness we have been journeying through has changed us! It is here that we have encountered resurrection, itself – the birthplace of creation itself!
HAPPY EASTER DAY!

Today's prelude captures the essence of Easter morning, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the sun rises, it symbolizes hope, renewal, and the triumph of life over death. Let's immerse ourselves in the imagery of this inspiring piece.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Wilderness is the Birthplace of Joy

a Poem by Sarah Are

I used to know the wilderness only as pain; a land without food, a land without water.
But you rained down manna and even water flows in your desert.
I used to think the wilderness was total isolation—
But the Israelites had each other, and you had the stars in the sky.
So then I thought the wilderness must be time wasted—
Forty years of circles. Forty years of wondering.
But then I realized, each step is a step, and maybe there's growth in that.
So then I concluded that the wilderness must be lonely spaces—
The woman and her well, the blind man and his gate,
Martha and her kitchen, Peter and his fire.
But then you showed up in each of those places, to each of those faces.
So now I wonder—What if the wilderness is the birthplace of creation?
What if the wilderness is where call begins?
What if the wilderness is where joy is birthed?
What if, between the dirt and the sky and that wide orange horizon,
The wilderness is where we find you?

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Pastor Joel: We must never again look for the living among the dead. We are chosen servants of the Lord, the mystical body of Christ. Because of Easter, we have been granted privilege and responsibility to carry on the redemptive work begun in Jesus. Let us begin in love and humility to serve and strengthen the Love of God throughout the world!

PRELUDE

"The Easter Sunrise"

D. COOK

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashia Stoess (8:30) / Rick Fletcher (10:30)

Leader: In this room, we recognize the wilderness in the world and trust that God is near.

People: In this room, we hold on to hope, we hold on to each other, and this morning in this room we sing "Alleluia!" once again.

Leader: In this room, we trust that love is stronger than hate. So in this room, we celebrate and we sing.

People: In this room, we trust that nothing can separate us from God's love.
ALL JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY! LET US WORSHIP HOLY GOD!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN, NO. 232

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

EASTER HYMN

*LITANY AND PRAYER FOR EASTER MORNING

Leader: Before time, at the beginning of creation, God's Spirit moved across the face of the deep waters of chaos.

People: Light, land, and every living thing were given life.

Leader: When the world falls into rebellion still, God saves us from the deep waters of chaos we create.

People: And each time, every time, we are given another chance to live.

Leader: Today we step out of our own tombs, for Resurrection has happened and the chance to begin again is ours. Let us pray ...

ALL: GOD OF NEW LIFE, WE COME TO YOU CONFESSING THAT WE ARE GUILTY OF CREATING EMOTIONAL WILDERNESS SPACES – SPACES OF RAISED VOICES AND SLAMMING DOORS, OF JUDGEMENTS PAUSED AND ACCUSATIONS CAST, OF COLD SHOULDERS AND DEEP REGRET. WE CREATED THESE SPACES WHEN WE FEEL THREATENED, AFRAID, OR SHAMED, WHICH IS FAR TOO OFTEN GIVEN THE PROMISES YOU MAKE TO US. SO DRAW US BACK TO THE BEGINNING – WHERE YOU CREATED AND IT WAS GOOD. SMOOTH OVER OUR WILDERNESS SCARS AND FILL OUR VEINS WITH YOUR LOVE. FOR LIKE THE DISCIPLES ON THAT FIRST EASTER MORNING, WE ARE RUNNING TOWARD YOU ONCE AGAIN.

*RESPONSE, NO. 245 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" (verse 2) LLANFAIR

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Him rise; Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

A striking feature of the opening hymn is that it is written in the present tense.

This is powerful because it places **us** in community with those who witnessed the resurrection in their own lifetimes. "But the pains which He endured, our salvation have procured. Alleluia!"

It is appropriate on Easter Day to use a litany of thanksgiving, praise, and prayer in place of the "confessional sequence."

From a triumphant Palm Sunday to a dark, betrayed Friday, we have journeyed to Easter.

Wiser now, we know that joy and sorrow, life and death are bound together. Yet it is life that triumphs over all and love that conquers fear.

We sing on this Easter Sunday in thanksgiving for the gifts of renewal and new life.

For the first time since Lent began, we stand, responding to the questions we've asked all season long.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The anthem begins with a syncopated resurrection fanfare, capturing the joy and celebration of Christ's resurrection. It then transitions to a contrasting minor section, reflecting the somber moment at the tomb. Overall, it is a strong and joyful piece, proclaiming that **Christ is risen indeed!**

These Eastertide stanzas are derived from a longer Latin text that was one of the earliest hymns written especially for a season of the church year. They are set here to a tune with Christmas associations, a means of linking the two great festivals of the Christian year.

In 1983 the two largest Presbyterian churches in the United States reunited. "A Brief Statement of Faith" was commissioned and accepted for inclusion in the "Book of Confessions." It celebrates the rediscovery that for all our diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task.

We bring to God our joys and concerns, praying for the world, the church, and those close to us.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Risen Indeed!"

The Chancel Choir

ALLEN POTE

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:1-18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON SHOWING UP EVERY DAY

Reverend Joel Weible

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*PROCLAMATION HYMN, NO. 254

"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright!"

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

In life and death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

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

TIME OF GIVING THANKS

CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 offertory is a hymn that celebrates the beauty and grace of Jesus Christ. Its lyrics express deep reverence and gratitude for the Savior's redemptive work. It invites us to contemplate the majesty and love of Jesus, acknowledging Him as both divine and human. It's often sung in Christian worship services, bringing comfort and inspiration to believers.

Doxology literally means "words of glory." Doxologies have long been used by Jews and Christians to praise God. Here we honor and thank God "from whom all blessings flow."

This Easter text was written to fit the music, a chorus created for Handel's oratorio *Joshua* and moved to *Judas Maccabeus* in 1751. It grew widely popular following its use at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

Charles-Marie-Jean-Albert Widor was a French organist, composer, and teacher of the late Romantic era. As a composer he is known for his ten organ symphonies, especially the toccata of his fifth organ symphony, which is frequently played as recessional music at weddings and other celebrations.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Beautiful Savior"

arr. J. KASEN

*DOXOLOGY



* Or "God"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

The risen Christ has always been with us. In his name we dedicate our humble offering. We are servants of our Lord, O God. As we are empowered by the gift of our Risen Christ, use *our* gifts to carry on your redemptive work. In love and with humility, we pray. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 238

"Thine Is the Glory!"

JUDAS MACCABEUS

THE SENDING

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Hallelujah Chorus"

G.F. HANDEL

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE "Tocatta (from Symphony No. 5)"

C.M. WIDOR

PVPC proudly introduces our *Pray-ground* in the front of the Sanctuary: a flexible seating space geared toward families with children that offers us the opportunity to teach children how to worship in age-appropriate ways as they grow in their discipleship. All who desire are invited to "come forward!"

All elements of recent services may be found on our website;
PeweeValleyPresbyterian.org