

Worshiping God at
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023



Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teddie McConnell

Prelude

Seung-mee Oh

Opening Prayer

Pastor Teddie

Living God, we are so slow to recognize your presence, even when you stand among us, even in your living Word. Still, stay with us, we pray; make yourself known to us, and let our hearts burn within us to share the good news that Jesus Christ our Savior is risen indeed. **Amen.**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Mary Fuhlendorf

L: We have been walking, Lord,

P: on roads of uncertainty and fear, on roads of exhaustion and doubt, on winding roads that have led us here.

L: Join us on our journey, Lord.

P: By your presence, refresh our spirits, set our hearts ablaze, and give us new direction!

Service parts in bold: Everyone speaks in unison.
Parts with an asterisk: * Please stand in body or in spirit.

* Hymn #248

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven never more shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

* *Passing of the Peace*

Pastor Teddie

Let us share the peace of God with each other, as we greet one another in the name of Christ.

Call to Confession

Mary

When we say, "we don't sin," we deny who we are. But when we say, "there's no way out," we deny who God is. Trusting that God's grace is more powerful than our sin, let us confess our sins together.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Mary

Jesus, Teacher, we confess today our outright foolishness. We have been foolish to doubt your promises. Foolish to withhold love from neighbor. Foolish to chase riches, prestige and power. Foolish to waste your gifts and spoil your creation. Foolish to divide your children from each other. Foolish to think hope is lost.

Wise us up again. Open our hearts to your presence in our lives, in our neighbors, in our world. In your grace, help us grab onto our millionth second chance, and forge a new road from here on.

Please take time now for your own silent prayers. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

Pastor Teddie

L: Hear the good news! New life is not only possible; it has drawn near to us in Jesus. The promise is for us, and for all the children of God.

P: By the grace of God, the glory of Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven and we are free! Alleluia! Amen.

* Gloria Patri

Anthem

My Redeemer is Faithful and True
(by Stephen Curtis Chapman)

Pastor Teddie / Seung-mee

Minute for Mission

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Rev. Merritt Schatz

Call for the Offering

Pastor Teddie

What shall we return to the Lord? Nothing can equal what God has given us. Let us therefore give our money, our time and our energy with the generous joy of children, presenting gifts to make God smile.

Offering / Offertory

Seung-mee

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Pastor Teddie

God of surprises, take these gifts and astound us by what they do. Through the work of your church, restore a broken world into the beloved community you dream of for us. Show us how to take these offerings and use them "to love each other deeply from the heart." In your grace we trust. Amen.

* Affirmation of Faith (unison)

Pastor Teddie

(Adapted from the 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 the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love, God created the world good, acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation, and makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, was crucified, and raised from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

Sharing of Joys & Concerns / Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

Pastor Teddie

Musical Reflection

Seung-mee Oh

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Mary

Holy Spirit, send your fire to dance across these familiar words, illuminating ancient stories, illuminating weary hearts. Set us ablaze again with the promises of the Holy Word, still proclaimed for us. Amen.

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

¹³ When God made a promise to Abraham, because he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "I will surely bless you and multiply you." ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. ¹⁶ Humans, of course, swear by someone greater than themselves, and an oath given as confirmation puts an end to all dispute among them. ¹⁷ In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, ¹⁸ so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* Hymn #250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

Pastor Teddie

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

Sung Benediction

All

May the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever;
grant you peace, perfect peace,
courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face,
full of grace forever;
may the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever.

Fellowship Time

Come! Join us in the Fellowship Room for refreshments, snacks, and conversation following the worship service.