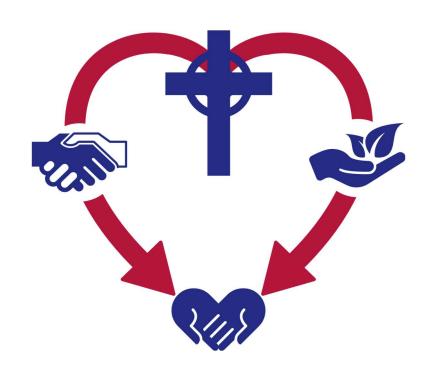
We are imperfect believers, passionate about sharing the love of Christ:

by Connecting, Growing, and Serving.



A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day Easter / The Resurrection of our Lord March 31, 2024

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your information online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards are also available, and we invite you to list your concerns and place them in the offering plate as well.



We Gather to Worship God

*Congregation stands as noted

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "He Is Alive!" Chancel Choir

Joel Raney

Call to Worship (from "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" Hymn 248)

Leader: Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

People: Hosanna! Hosanna!

Leader: Celebrate this day of days!

People: Hosanna! Hosanna!

Leader: Let all creation be amazed!

All: Hosanna! Hosanna! Christ is Risen!

Invocation

*Opening Hymn #248

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God

Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - "Confession" Words/Music by Kenneth Jones (front cover of hymnal)

Lord, I come before you, asking your forgiveness. I am broken, I have faltered. I have turned from you. Create in me a new heart. Fill me with your love. Grant that I receive your grace, I pray. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Savior God, forgive the ways we alienate ourselves from each other and from you through the exclusion and judgment in our lives and the way we evaluate and compare others. Forgive our many sins, our habits that demean and degrade, and our addiction to destructive behavior. Redeem us and restore us so that our lives may show forth the love of the risen Christ. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

People: Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The one who rode into Jerusalem to cheering crowds knew that the cross awaited. It is Christ's victory over the grave that brings about eternal life. Hear and believe the good news: All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*Thanks for God's Forgiveness (#647; no repeats)

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: Grace to you, and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(*remain standing)

*Transition Hymn #626

"As the Deer"

We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life

Offering Our Lives to Jesus through Our Time, Gifts, and Resources (see the 'Giving' card in the pew rack for information about options for digital giving)

*Doxology (#606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed

Scripture Reading John 20:1-18

Time for Young Disciples

(Children that have not yet finished 1st Grade are dismissed following this time)

Special Music "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise!!" Chancel Choir

Dan Forrest

Congregation: (LLANFAIR tune, #245)

Hail the day that see him Rise, Alleluia! To his home above the skies, Alleluia! Christ the Lamb for sinners giv'n, Alleluia! Enters now the highest heav'n, Alleluia!

Scripture Reading Acts 10:34-43

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of God's Word Rev. Preston Shealy

"Who Are We?"

Time of Meditation, Reflection

Responding to God's Word

*Affirmation of Our Faith (from The Confession of 1967)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. Christ's human life involves the church in the common life of all people. Christ's service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. Christ's suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. Christ's crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of Christ's coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

*Responsive Hymn #254

"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

Preparing Our Hearts for Prayer (#471)

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Prayers for the People

Ann Paschall

Respond: 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.

Sending Out Into the World

*Sending Hymn #232

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Benediction #246 (v.1)

"Christ Is Alive!"

*Postlude

<u>Sanctuary Flowers</u>: the Easter lilies were placed in the sanctuary today by Richard and Barbara Balentine, in memory of Beattie Balentine, and Edith and Clyde Clark.

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you were blessed so you can go and be a witness to Christ's love in the world. May your spirits be renewed for the days ahead.



Rev. Preston Shealy, Bridge Interim Pastor Kenneth Jones, Director of Music Millie Shiflett, Accompanist Phil Beckwith, Lay Leader

