

Falls Village Congregational Church

April 12, 2020 - Easter

Order of Worship

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnnyder, Worship Leader

Greeting and Welcome

The Lord is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

Prelude

Call to Worship

This is the good news--the grave is empty, Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen, Alleluia!

This is the good news—the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out.

The light shines in darkness, Alleluia!

This is the good news—once we were no people, now we are God's people.

We are God's people, Alleluia!

Let us worship the risen Christ.

Hymn 216 *Christ the Lord is risen today*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All creation, join to say, Alleluia!

Raise you joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia! Jesus died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

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.

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, who sent Jesus into the world to suffer, die, and rise again for our sake: Help us to experience your transforming resurrection power in our lives and in our world. This we pray in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord. Amen.

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Risen Lord, although we proclaim the empty tomb, sometimes act as if Jesus is still buried. We confess that we live in fear, afraid of the perils of living, fearful of death even after its defeat. On this glorious day of mirth and song, forgive us when we are quick to forget its Good News. Help us be a people of resurrection not just on this day but all days. Fill our hearts with your resurrection promise of life that we might turn from sin and be renewed. Free us from our fears that we might tell this glad story - that Christ is risen, he is risen, indeed!

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading- The Easter Affirmations (Romans 6, I Cor 15), p.217

R: I know that my Redeemer lives

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;

Death no longer has dominion over him.

The death he died he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives he lives to God.

So, you must also consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ. R

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead,

The first fruits of those who have died.

For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being

For as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. R

Gloria Patri

Offering of the Peace

Scripture –

Jeremiah 31:10-13

John 20:1-18

Sermon – “Holding On”

Hymn 562 *Because He Lives*

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus, he came to love, heal, and forgive;

He lived and died to buy my pardon; an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain – Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives all fear is gone.

Because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy that gives;

But greater still the calm assurance this child can face uncertain days because he lives.

Refrain

And then one day I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final war with pain;

And then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns

Refrain

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 218 *Thine is the Glory*

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,

endless is the victory thou o'er death has won

Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,

kept the folded graveclothes where the body lay.

Refrain: Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er death has 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 has lost its sting. *Refrain*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!

Life is nought without, aid us in our strife.

Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love.

Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

Benediction

Postlude “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”