

Scriptural Meditation
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
 Video and Music by Jim Martinez

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Prelude

Fanfare for Easter

by D. Wagner

Call to Worship

One: God is good!

All: **All the time!**

One: All the time!

All: **God is good!**

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

Let all the people proclaim, "God's steadfast love endures forever!"

All: **"God's steadfast love endures forever!"**

One: We enter the gates of the Lord and give thanks,
 For this is the day the Lord has made!

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

One: Christ is risen.

All: **He is risen indeed.**

Prayer of Invocation

*Gathering Song

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

232

*Prayer of Reconciliation

Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.

All: **We have to admit it, Lord, that we had our doubts. We have heard the Resurrection story and for so many years it has remained just a nice story. But this time it is different. We have journeyed with Christ through the wilderness and valleys, to the mountaintops to the courtyard, the garden and the cross. Now you bring us to the empty tomb and to the joyous news of the truth of Christ. Forgive us when we so easily doubt the truth of his resurrection. Forgive us when we feel we have to have absolute proof of everything. You conquered death and sin, you brought us to new life. Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia. Amen.**

*A Time for Contemplation (a private time for you and God)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Come into the light of God's love! Christ is risen! Death has been swallowed up in victory! Know beyond all doubt that God's love is always with you, surrounding you, leading you, comforting you. Be at peace.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

*Gloria Patri

581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen, Amen.**

Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain.

God's Word for Little Ears

Dedication of One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Hymn of Preparation

I Danced in the Morning

#157

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

All: **God of love and redemption, today with glad hearts we hear Your message of salvation and resurrection life. Give us open hearts to receive that message into our being, so that, with joyful understanding we can proclaim, "Christ is risen, He is risen indeed." Amen.**

First Scripture Lesson

The Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

page 129

Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (*adapted*)

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

All: ***his steadfast love endures forever!***

One: The LORD is my strength and my might;

Men: ***The Lord is my salvation.***

One: Let the gates of righteousness be opened

Women: ***that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.***

One: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

Men: ***I thank you that you have answered me and have become my Salvation.***

One: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Women: ***This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.***

One: This is the day that the LORD has made;

All: ***let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

For use in worship, with acknowledgement. © Jeff Shrowder 2000, 2013.

Anthem

Easter Rejoicing by Jonathan Willcocks (b.1953)

- 1&2) Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
 To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia!
- 3) The Lord of life is risen this day: Alleluia!
 Bring flowers of song, bedeck the way: Alleluia!
- 4) Let all the world rejoice, and say: Alleluia!
 Praise we in songs of victory, That love, that life which cannot die,
 And sing with hearts uplifted high, sing: Alleluia!
- 5) Your name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord,
 The life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia!
 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing: Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson

John 20:1-18

page 83

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

An Early Morning Encounter

Pastor Kim Nelson

~Responding to God’s Word~

***Affirmation of Faith**

Let us stand and affirm our faith.

One: We believe

When the stone rolls (*roll stones together*)

**All: life is set free
love is reborn
and alleluias dance**

One: We believe

when the stone rolls (*roll stones together*)

**All: The Word speaks again
creation sighs once more
and the land breathes deeply**

One: We believe

when the stone rolls (*roll stones together*)

**All: Love conquers all
grace wins through
and peace can be held in both hands**

Invitation to Become a Joyful Giver

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory

That Easter Day (#254)

by M. Praetorius

***Doxology**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow/Doxology

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen 1623 Public Domain. [Adapted from #609]

Prayers of the People followed by Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

All: 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.

Sung Prayer Response

Come and Fill Our Hearts (#466)

**All: Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
You alone, O Lord, are holy,
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!**

Words & Music: Jacques Berthier © Les Presses de Taizé (France).

~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

***Song of Sending Forth**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

#245

***Benediction**

One: We have seen the Lord this day!

Now go into the world to spread this good news.

God is good!

All: All the time!

One: All the time!

All: God is good!

One: May you be blessed and may you be a blessing,
In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

One: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

*** Choral Benediction**

An Easter Benediction

by Gary Miller

Go from this Easter day as carriers of God’s love,

Go into your world and spread the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tell others how God loves us, forgives us, and calls us by name.

And God will be with you now, and forevermore. Amen.

***Postlude**

Grand Choeur Dialogue

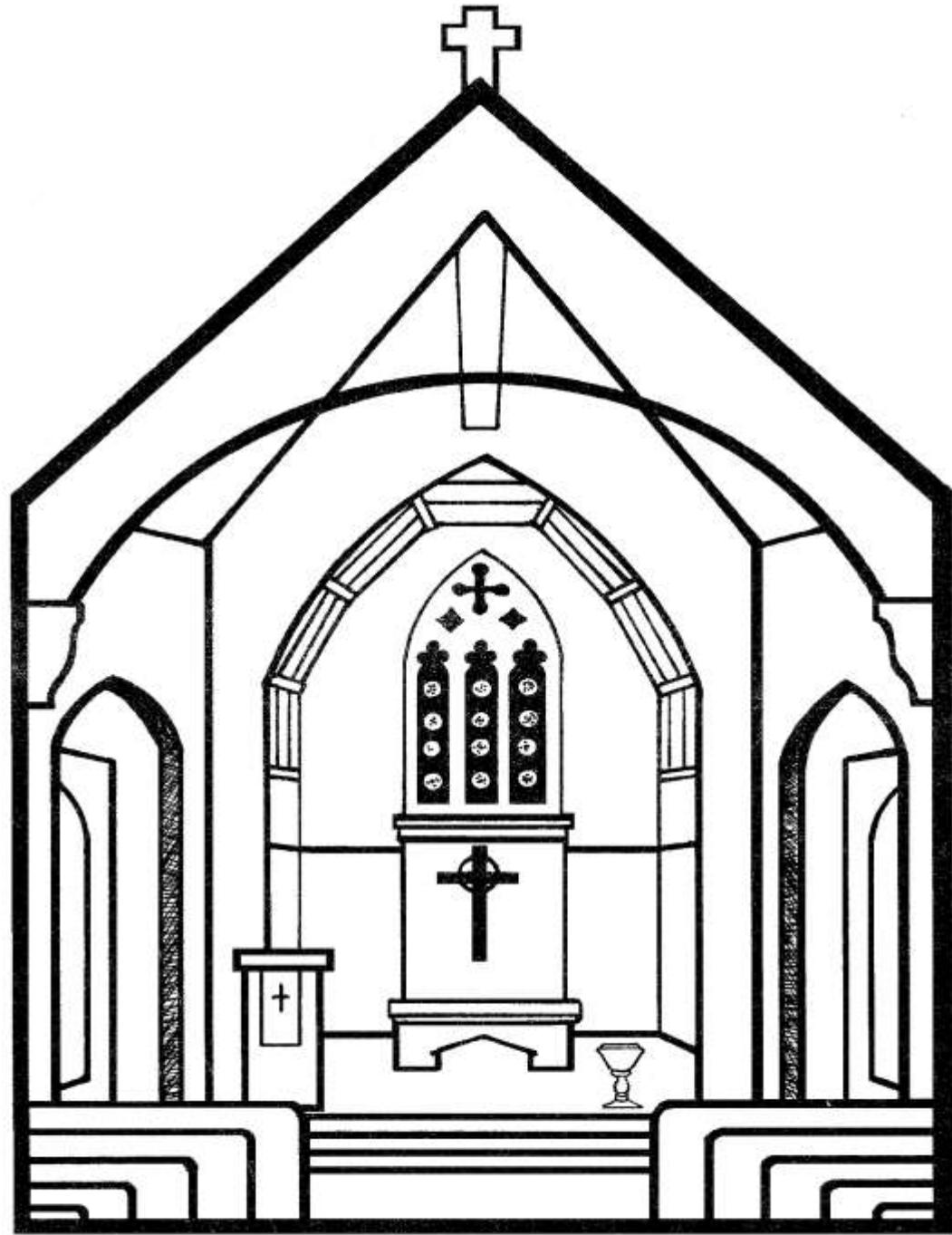
by E. Gigout

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*Please stand, if you are able.

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.

Music printed and recorded for congregational use only under CCLI # 11373529



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CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI