

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

April 9, 2023 at 10 am

*"Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?  
He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!" (Luke 24:5-6)*

## PRELUDE

*"EARLY ON EASTER MORNING . . ."*

## WELCOME

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### *"CHRIST AROSE (LOW IN THE GRAVE HE LAY)"*

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Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior;  
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord.

*Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.*

*He arose, He arose.  
Hallelujah, Christ arose.*

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Savior;  
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord.

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Savior;  
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord.

*"Christ Arose" by Robert Lowry,  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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This is the good news—  
the grave is empty;  
Christ is risen.

**Hallelujah!**

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

**Hallelujah!**

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

**Hallelujah!**

\* Please stand if you are able

Christ is our peace,  
the indestructible peace  
we now share with each other.

**Hallelujah!**

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS—AND FAREWELL**

**PASSING THE PEACE: THE EASTER ACCLAMATION**

“He is risen!” “He is risen indeed!”

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**HYMN #123: “JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY”**

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Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky He’s king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God’s love; Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)**

**Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave  
and crowned him Lord of all.**

**We confess that too often we have not bowed before him  
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.**

**We so easily go along with the way of the world  
and fail to give him glory.**

**Forgive us, and raise us from sin,  
that we may be your faithful people,  
obeying the commands of Jesus.**

**Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired;  
new love where we have turned hard-hearted;  
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;  
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where  
we are prisoners of ourselves.**

**We pray these things in the confidence of your mercy and grace,  
Amen.**

*After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.*

The apostle Paul wrote:  
*“if Christ has not been raised,  
then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. . . .  
But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead!”  
And that means we receive forgiveness and new life with God.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**CHOIR: “THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS”**

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**THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE**

Sermon: *“The Relevance of the Resurrection”*

**Luke 24:1-12**

But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.<sup>2</sup> They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.<sup>3</sup> So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.<sup>4</sup> As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

<sup>5</sup> The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? <sup>6</sup> He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee,<sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.”

<sup>8</sup> Then they remembered that he had said this.<sup>9</sup> So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened.<sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened.<sup>11</sup> But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.<sup>12</sup> However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

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**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS**

*The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support  
our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.*

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**DOXOLOGY**

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

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

\* *Please stand if you are able*

## AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

This is the good news that we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**Christ died for our sins, was buried,  
was raised on the third day,  
and appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter and the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe Jesus is the Christ,  
the Anointed One of God,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
in whom all things hold together,  
in whom the fullness of God  
was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit.**

**Christ is the head of the body, the church,  
and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God.**

**Amen.**

*Based on 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Colossians 1:15-20*

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### ***"IN CHRIST ALONE"***

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In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

\* *Please stand if you are able*

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*"In Christ Alone" by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend;  
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## BENEDICTION

**CHOIR: "THE ANGELS ROLLED THE STONE AWAY"**

## POSTLUDE

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Caretaker Hours: 9:00 – 1:00 (Mon, Tues, Wed; plus additional intermittent hours)

Tuesday Crew Facility Maintenance: 9 am – 1 pm (Tues)

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

## CALENDAR

- April 10–19** Chuck will be on vacation
- Sunday, April 16** Guest Preacher: Jim Rhoads  
Potluck (after our morning worship service)  
Youth Group (4:30 pm)
- Tuesday, April 18** Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Thursday, April 20** Deacons' Meeting (6:00 pm)  
Session (7:00 pm)
- Sunday, April 30** Sharing Table