

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

April 7, 2024 at 10 am

*“He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.” (1 Corinthians 15:5-6)*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

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### HYMN #104: *“CHRIST IS RISEN, SHOUT HOSANNA”*

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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  
Nevermore 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!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God’s throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

\* Please stand if you are able

**Rejoice, heavenly powers!  
Sing, choirs of angels!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!**

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,  
radiant in the brightness of your King!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!  
Darkness vanishes forever!

**Rejoice, heavenly powers!  
Sing, choirs of angels!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!**

Rejoice, O mother church! Exult in glory!  
The risen Savior shines upon you!  
Let this place resound with joy,  
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

**Rejoice, heavenly powers!  
Sing, choirs of angels!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Amen.**

*(From an ancient Easter hymn known as the Exsultet)*

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**HYMN #122: "THINE IS THE GLORY"**

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Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment  
Rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes  
Where Thy body lay.

*Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast 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 hath lost its sting. *[Refrain]*

No more we doubt Thee,  
Glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without Thee;  
Aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors  
Through Thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan  
To Thy home above. *[Refrain]*

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## THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

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Sermon: *"A Living Jesus: Three Stories"*

### **Luke 24:13-35**

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. <sup>16</sup> But God kept them from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

<sup>19</sup> "What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. <sup>21</sup> We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

<sup>22</sup> "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. <sup>23</sup> They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! <sup>24</sup> Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. <sup>26</sup> Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, <sup>29</sup> but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. <sup>30</sup> As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, <sup>34</sup> who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."

<sup>35</sup> Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.

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

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

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**Gracious God, we worship our risen Savior,  
but we find ourselves weighed down by many things.**

**We would prefer an easy faith,  
one that does not require us to identify the many ways  
that our thoughts, words, and actions have scorned Your love.**

**But faith is never easy. It requires our very souls.**

**Forgive us when we choose to remain captive to fear and doubt.  
Remind us that Jesus gave His life so that we might draw near to You.  
Deepen our faith, and enable us by Christ's resurrection power  
to live no longer for ourselves,  
but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf:  
Christ our Lord.**

*We will take a few moments for private prayers before the Assurance of Pardon.*

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### **"THE POWER OF THE CROSS"**

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Oh to see the dawn, of the darkest day,  
Christ on the road to Calvary;  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then,  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This the pow'r of the cross;  
Christ became sin for us,  
Took the blame, bore the wrath,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh to see the pain, written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow. *[Refrain]*

Oh to see my name, written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering I am free;  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.

*This the pow'r of the cross;  
Son of God, slain for us,  
What a love, what a cost,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

*"This the Power of the Cross," by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.  
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\* *Please stand if you are able*

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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*Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed,  
and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and then partake of it in unison.*

### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer***

#### ***Communion***

#### ***The Apostles' Creed***

***I believe in God the Father*** Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

***I believe in Jesus Christ*** his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

***I believe in the Holy Spirit***; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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### ***"HE LIVES (I SERVE A RISEN SAVIOR)" (verses 1, 3)***

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I serve a risen Savior  
He's in the world today.  
I know that He is living,  
Whatever men may say.  
I see His hand of mercy;  
I hear His voice of cheer;  
And just the time I need Him  
He's always near.

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart.*

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,  
Lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs  
To Jesus Christ the King!  
The Hope of all who seek Him,  
The Help of all who find,  
None other is so loving,  
So good and kind. [Refrain]

*"He Lives" by Alfred Henry Ackley.*

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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

\* Please stand if you are able

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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WEBSITE: [ABERDEENPRES.ORG](http://ABERDEENPRES.ORG)

### CALENDAR

- TODAY** Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)  
Communion (10:00 worship service)  
Sharing Table (before and after the service)
- Tuesday, Apr 9** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)  
Handbell Rehearsal (5:00 pm in the Sanctuary)
- Wednesday, Apr 10** Quilting Group (10:30 – 2:30)
- Thursday, Apr 11** Session (7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday, Apr 14** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)  
Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)  
Potluck (after the service)

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