

# Easter Sunrise Service

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE | MARCH 31, 2024 | 6:15 AM

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

—1 Corinthians 15:54

“The King who can swallow up death has no equal.”

—Paul House

“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

—Jesus, Revelation 1:17-18

{ **GATHERED WORSHIP:** The Triune God Renews His People }

## ☒ CALL TO WORSHIP

The True God who made all things invites us to draw near!

(Children, practice ringing bells!)

## ☒ RESPONSIVE READING

Please read aloud the portions that are *italicized*.

Leader: Jesus Christ is Risen from among the Dead.

All: *He is Risen, indeed!*

Children: (ring the bells!)

Leader: In our current state, we perish,  
but one day we will be clothed  
with bodies that do not perish.  
Today, we are mortal.  
But when King Jesus returns  
he will grant us immortality.

All: *Then shall come to pass the saying that is written:  
"Death is swallowed up in victory."*

Leader: "O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?"

Children: (ring the bells!)

Leader: Sin ruined all things.  
But Jesus came to defeat sin and death itself.

All: *Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Leader: Christ is Risen!

All: *He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!*

Children: (ring the bells!)

 **HYMN OF RESURRECTION**

"Christ the Lord is Ris'n Today"

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Earthly wisdom now reversed, Alleluia!  
Heaven's King became a curse, Alleluia!  
Dead and buried, raised again, Alleluia!  
Death is life and loss is gain, Alleluia!

## ☒ CONFESSON OF PRAISE

Leader: Almighty Father, we glorify you.  
You raised the Son from the dead.  
You make us partakers of his victory over sin and death.

Children: (ring the bells!)

Leader: Glory be to you, O Christ Jesus!  
You defeated for us and for our salvation.  
You opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Children: (ring the bells!)

Leader: Glory be to you, O Holy Spirit.  
You lead us into all truth.  
Please keep showing us that all truth and wisdom  
are hidden and revealed in Christ.

All: *We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!  
You bring life and immortality to light through your Gospel.  
Blessed be your glorious name for ever and ever. Amen.*

Children: (ring the bells!)

—adapted from the Book of Common Worship

**READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Jonah 1:1-17; 2:10

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” <sup>3</sup>But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. <sup>6</sup>So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”

<sup>7</sup>And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” <sup>9</sup>And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” <sup>10</sup>Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

<sup>11</sup>Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. <sup>12</sup>He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” <sup>13</sup>Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore they called out to the LORD, “O Lord, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.”

<sup>15</sup>So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. <sup>16</sup>Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

<sup>17</sup>And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

<sup>2:10</sup>And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Children: (ring the bells!)

## READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 11:29-32

When the crowds were increasing, Jesus began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. <sup>30</sup>For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. <sup>31</sup>The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. <sup>32</sup>The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Children: (ring the bells!)

 **HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Worship Christ, the Risen King"

Rise, O rise, and lift your voices,  
Christ has conquered death and hell;  
Sing as all the earth rejoices,  
Resurrection anthems swell;  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the risen King!

See the tomb where death had laid Him,  
Empty now, its mouth declares,  
"Death and I could not contain Him  
For the throne of life He shares."  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the risen King!

Doubt may lift its head to murmur,  
Scoffers mock and sinners jeer;  
But the truth proclaims a wonder,  
Thoughtful hearts receive with cheer;  
He is risen, He is risen,  
Now receive the risen King!

We acclaim Your life, O Jesus,  
Now we sing Your victory;  
Sin or hell may seek to seize us,  
But Your conquest keeps us free;  
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph,  
Worship Christ, the risen King!

 **PRAYER**



## READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 24:1-11; 36-43

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup>And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

<sup>8</sup>And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, <sup>11</sup>but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

<sup>36</sup>As they [some eyewitnesses with the apostles and friends] were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" <sup>37</sup>But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate before them.

## HOMILY

 **HYMN OF HOPE**

"Jesus Lives and So Shall I"

Jesus lives, and so shall I;  
Death! Thy sting is gone forever.  
He who deigned for me to die,  
Lives, the bands of death to sever;  
He shall raise me from the dust,  
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives and reigns supreme,  
And, His kingdom still remaining;  
I shall also be with Him,  
Ever living, ever reigning;  
God has promised; be it must,  
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives, and so shall I;  
Death! Thy sting is gone forever.  
He who deigned for me to die,  
Lives, the bands of death to sever;  
He shall raise me from the dust,  
Jesus is my hope and trust.

 **BENEDICTION**

## HYMN CREDITS

Find our gathered worship playlist at [covpres.com/music-worship](https://covpres.com/music-worship).

*"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"*

Words: Latin sequence, 11th century Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708.

*"Worship Christ, the Risen King"*

Words: Jack W. Hayford, 1986. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867.

*"Jesus Lives and So Shall I"*

Words: Christian F. Gellert, 1757; tr. by J.D. Lang, 1826. Music: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, ca. 1774.

