

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602
540-662-1843 www.opequonchurch.org



The Second Sunday of Easter

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

April 11, 2021

11:00 am

The Second Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE *Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Arr.: Martin

Please use this time to prepare your inward spirit for the worship of God.

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG NO. 246 *Christ Is Alive*

CCLI#1622560

**Christ is Alive! Let Christians sing,
the cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love drowned in death, shall never die**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Something deep inside us calls us, beckons us.

**We are looking for truth that anchors us in the midst of
competing voices.**

We are searching for life that sparkles with joy and glows with warmth.

We are finding our way to Christ, to community, to love.

We move boldly, bravely searching for God’s path.

Open our senses, our God, empower our journey.

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 451 *Open My Eyes that I May See*

CCLI#1622560

**Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.**

**Chorus: Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear. [Chorus]**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share. [Chorus]**

CALL TO CONFESSION

The world sets false barriers and divides us into artificial groups, but God knows us in every way. Our words, our thoughts, our actions are all done within God's sight. With this knowledge, we may gather as the people of God to confess our sins before God and one another with confidence.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and risen Savior, we claim to be people of the resurrection, yet we confess that far too often we do not experience resurrection power. Our prayers are anemic, and our faith is shallow. We compartmentalize our lives, placing you on the sidelines of our work, family life and play. We take too much for granted and fail to thank you for the blessings of health, relationships and freedoms. We fail to be good stewards of your creation, and we become discouraged by problems, limitations and failures. Gracious God, forgive our shortsightedness and our lack of trust. Help us to see that you are at work in our lives and in the world. Inspire us to hold fast to you in faith, knowing that you are working all things for good and that because of the empty tomb, we have nothing to fear.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The gospel is foolishness for those who do not understand. For God's power and love are shown not in our strength but in our weakness. All praise for a God who does know us for who we are but still never gives up on us.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 248..... *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

CCLI#1622560

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC..... *Will You Come and Follow Me*

Susan Homan & David Witt, duet, Bill Heavner, piano

CCLI#1622560

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know, and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known,

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

Will you love the 'you' you hide, if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,

through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: Acts 4:32-35 (The Message)

GOSPEL LESSON: John 20:19-31 (The Message)

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES

HYMN NO. 256..... *These Things Did Thomas Count as Real*

CCLI#1622560

**These things did Thomas count as real:
the warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
the grain of wood, the heft of stone,
the last frail twitch of flesh and bone.**

**The vision of his skeptic mind
was keen enough to make him blind
to any unexpected act
too large for his small world of fact.**

**His reasoned certainties denied
that one could live when one had died,
until his fingers read like Braille
the marking of the spear and nail.**

**May we, O God, by grace believe
and thus the risen Christ receive,
whose raw, imprinted palms reached out
and beckoned Thomas from his doubt.**

SERMON "Blessed are Those Who Believe"

Reverend Phil Sommers

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*

Handel

THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We bring our gifts with gratitude for the opportunity to give. We thank you, O Lord, for the bounty that is ours and for the freedom we have to worship as we choose. We are grateful for the endless choices that are ours to ponder and partake. We bring our gifts with hearts full of

thanksgiving for all that is ours. We ask only that you would help us to remember, through Christ our Lord.....

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(We say “debts” and “debtors” in the prayer)

WE GO OUT IN GOD’S NAME

HYMN OF DEDICATION NO 254 *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright*

CCLI#1622560

**That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord!**

**He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide,
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.**

**From every weapon death can wield,
your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.**

CHARGE AND BLESSING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 697 (v.1) *Take My Life*

CCLI#1622560

**Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

POSTLUDE *Epilogue*

Martin

The flowers for worship were given my Cora Helen Anderson in memory of her husband, James Guthrie Anderson, Senior.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 11-18, 2021

TODAY

The Second Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM In-Person Worship (With Reservations & Restrictions)
9:45 AM Faith Formation Hour via ZOOM
11:00 AM: Live Stream Worship

THIS WEEK

Monday: 7:00 PM – Men of Opequon (MOO) – Fellowship Hall
Tuesday: 6:00 PM – GLOW – God Loving Opequon Women – the
Gathering Area
Wednesday: 12:00 NOON -- "Snackin & Chattin" via ZOOM
Thursday: 10:00 AM – Tai Chi @ the Picnic Shelter
6:30 PM – Sherando Food Pantry
Saturday: 9:00 AM – Church Work Day – Bring water, gloves, rake

NEXT SUNDAY

The Third Sunday of Easter

Worship led by Reverend Tracy Martin
In-Person Worship – 8:30 AM
Faith Formation Hour – 9:45 AM
Live Stream Worship—11:00 AM

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

OPC Family/Staff
Carol Tubbs
Laurel Hathaway & Family
Sandy Haney
Mac McNichols
Curt Budny
June Windle
Carlene Lemasters
Atlanta Shootings
Boulder Shootings
E.F. "Shorty" Green
Tammy Workman
Jarett Cestaro
Gary Seabright
Peggy Gruenther
Nathan Windle
Jeff & Kim Barbour
Sylvia Wingfield
Grace & Sid Eadie
Paula McNichols
Dr. Michael Albig
Cindy Corell (missionary)
Doug Dicks (missionary)

Jose Lamont Jones
(missionary)
Nancy Budny
Mary Lou Thomas
Donna Schmidt
Ben & Theresa Montgomery
Katie Teets
Unity of Our Nation
Ethiopia
Erin Richman
Jay Beach
Wildfires
Nancy Kerns
David Trickle
Dianne Fleming
Racial Injustice
Reconciliation
Local Schools
Firefighters
Police Officers
First Responders
Jim & Cheryl Friend
Tom Schmidt
Al "Pop" Owens Sr

Food Banks
Homeless
Underemployed &
Unemployed
Mike Shade
Associate Pastor Nominating
Committee (APNC)
Casey Carr
TK Tandy III
Brad Treece
Patricia Ferguson
Women & Children of
Domestic Violence
Families of Children, Youth &
Young Adults with Special
Needs
Disaster Relief Agencies
Kes Mersha
Jane Lewis
Doug Koch
Illubabor Bethel Synod of
Church Mekane Yesus

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

Joshua Blake, Max Crane, Andrew Crane, Thomas Crane, Edison Gomez, Taylor McMurdo, Samuel & Julia Phillips, Brandon Michael, Jared Snawder, Greg Sousa, Katherine Tufts, Michael White, and their families.

TURKEY FEAST TO-GO ORDERS TODAY!!!

Please remember to pick up your pre-ordered FEAST meals TODAY, Sunday, April 11, 11:30am-1:30pm.

MOO WILL MEET MONDAY, APRIL 12 AT 7:00 PM

The Men of Opequon's (MOO) April gathering will be held in the **Fellowship Hall on Monday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m.** Please be prepared to wear a mask over your mouth and nose at all times; social distancing will be strictly observed. Sorry, no food can be served yet. We will enjoy devotions provided by Steve Bock and engaging conversation. All men are invited. Don't forget our monthly offering for MOO/our adopted child at the Gore Children's Home in Ethiopia.

GLOW WILL MEET TUESDAY, APRIL 13 AT 6:00 PM

Our theme is "April Showers". We will collect donations to create shower bags to donate to local charities. If you'd like to donate, please drop off your donations at 6:00 pm on April 13. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S OBJECT LESSON

This week's children's lesson is titled "**A Lesson From a Pencil**". A new pencil accompanied each child's lesson as it was sent to children's homes this week. Have fun as you see all there is to learn from a simple, yet especially useful pencil. Enjoy your new pencil too!

CHURCH WORKDAY ON THE GROUNDS THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 9 AM

Mulching, gardening, cleaning windows, and other assorted tasks! Please bring gloves, a rake, and bottled water. We'll socially distance while working together. Many hands make light work! Let's all pitch in!!!

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN NEEDS

The Opequon Presbyterian Church Roots & Shoots Garden is in need of **3 or 4 full-sized rounded blade shovels** and **5 boxes of white plastic knives**.

A "GIFT" EVENT- SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 9:45AM VIA ZOOM

GIFT stands for "**Generations in Faith Together**" and it truly is a gift to have all ages and stages together during the Sunday morning educational hour (known as FAITH FORMATION) at 9:45am via ZOOM. The theme of our time together on April 25 will be "**THE GIVING TREE!**" This is a story for all ages that offers glimpses into the gift of giving and the acceptance of another's capacity to love in return. Join in this GIFT event ZOOM time to enjoy activities centered around this story. It will be well worth your time.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is one of the four church-wide special offerings sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is highlighted during Lent, received and dedicated on Easter. This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the first OGHS, begun as American Christians recognized the need to respond to the worldwide devastation caused by World War II. In March 1949, a national broadcast on a Saturday evening asked Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches; a remarkable assembly of national leaders and celebrities gave their efforts to the broadcast, and more than 75,000 churches responded the next day.

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing are divided equally among the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. A special envelope for you was enclosed with the April newsletter or you may give on-line. If you haven't given yet, we invite your contribution.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT VBS?

There WILL BE Vacation Bible School this summer in an exciting new way! The dates are June 21-23 (Monday-Wednesday), open 5-7pm each evening. The focus will be on Serving our own families, serving our friends, and serving our neighbors; with loads of fun in 'God's Big Backyard'! There will be indoor and outdoor stations for families to roam around to, each with a different activity each night. Dinner meals can be reserved for pick-up while you are here. Families are invited to come ANY and ALL nights that work for you. Watch and listen for more details to come.

OPEQUON ON SOCIAL MEDIA

You may already visit the Opequon YouTube channel regularly, but did you know that Opequon is on other social media sites?! Search for Opequon Church on Facebook and Instagram to see pictures, announcements, and other happenings!

WORSHIP NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

When you think about understanding Jesus' resurrection is there music that helps you?

How did today's music help you think about responding to the Easter story in faith?

Notes on Today's Children's Sermon

Do you think Thomas understood what was happening when Jesus appeared?

Notes on Today's Prayers

Were you comfortable silently adding the names of those who were dear to you as you prayed?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

How can this story make us stronger Christians?

How do you understand the word believe? What about faith?

How can you help others see and use their lives as good gifts?