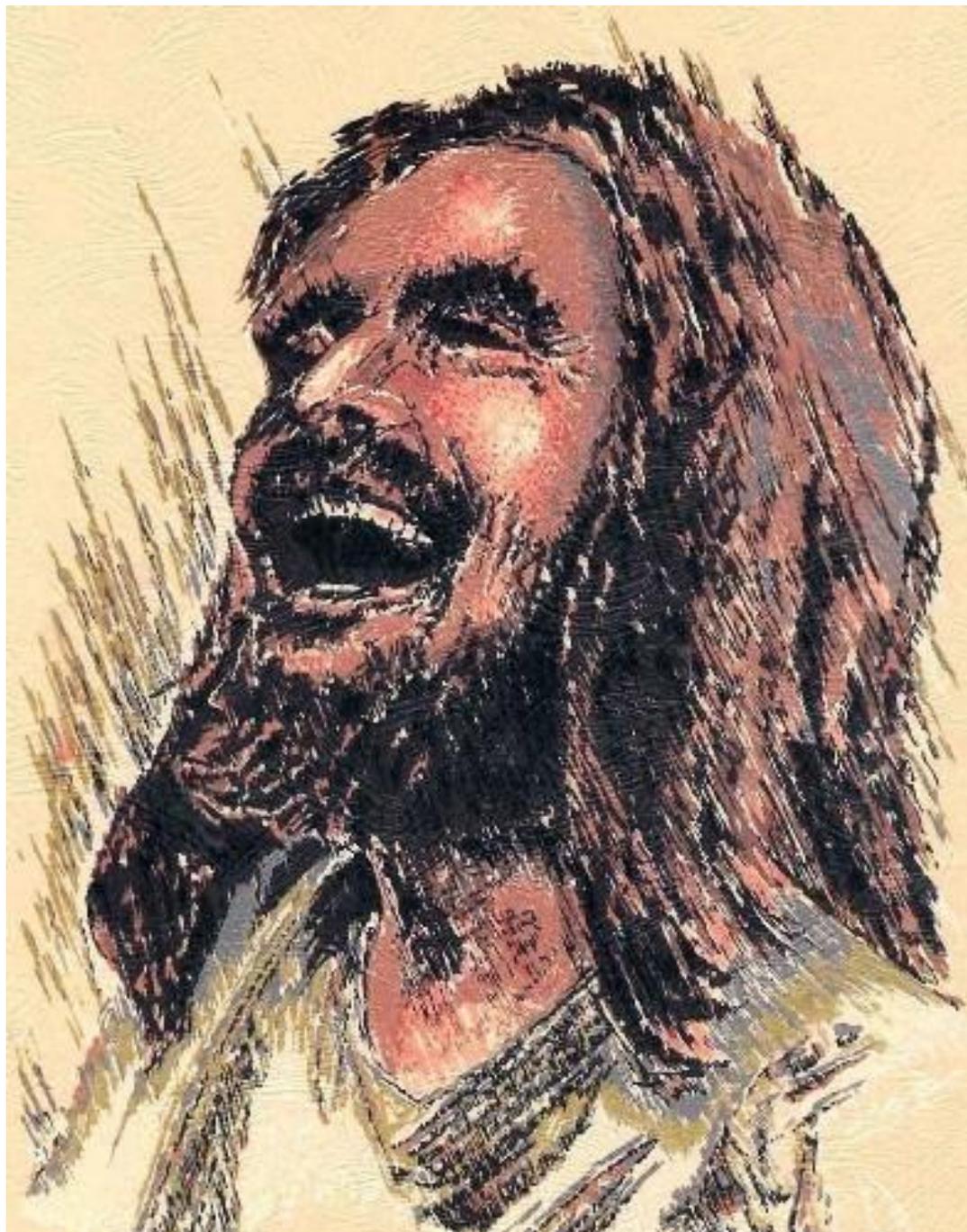


OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



The Third Sunday of Easter

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

April 18, 2021

11:00 am

The Third Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE Easter Alleluias
Kilhken

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.239 (vv. 1,3)... *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*
CCLI#1622560

**Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

**Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that Life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

CALL TO WORSHIP

At the break of dawn, a bird sings, the long night of darkness is over.

The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty.

The sun begins to shine, the Son has risen!

This is a morning of glory, of love overcoming death,

Of women spreading good news,

Of men turning away from despair.

It's a morning of joy,

All: And we lift our voices in song.

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 238 *Thine Is the Glory*
CCLI#1622560

**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.**

**Refrain 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]**

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God's mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing. We know ourselves called, but we're so easily distracted. We know ourselves loved, but we balk at the cost. Come, friends, let us confess our sins to the Lord.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Resurrected Christ, you come to us when we least expect,
offering us lives of a different kind of abundance. Yet we often
fail to sense your presence with us and misuse your generous
gifts. You are a Joyful Spirit, you long to turn our mourning
into dancing, to change our funeral clothes into garments of
exuberance. Sad, weary, or afraid, we often struggle to lift our
feet to your music or find an emotion that matches your joy.
Forgive us, Creator of all, for failing to live in tune with your
love. Even when we seem to have lost faith in you, do not lose
faith in us. Make us once again into your faithful people,
inspired and inspiring others with your promises of gladness,
thanksgiving, and peace, through Christ our Lord.**

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ forgives the most impossible sins, overcomes the greatest fears, comforts the loudest cries, and breaks down the strongest barriers to his love and peace. Through the resurrection, Christ’s power in the Holy Spirit lives and works here and now. Friends, we are the body of Christ for this time and this place; know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 234 (v. 2).....*Come, You Faithful,
Raise the Strain*
CCLI#1622560

**'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins,
Long and dark, is flying
from the Light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.**

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC.....“Hymn of Promise”
Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)
Barbara Rupert, soloist; Bill Heavner, accompanist
CCLI#1622560

In the bulb, there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: Acts 3:12-19

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 24:36b-48

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES "Anglo Jesus"

HYMN NO. 611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
CCLI#1622560

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
 Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
 opening to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
 drive the dark of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround thee;
 earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
 stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
 chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus,
 which the morning stars began.
 Love divine is reigning over us, joining all in heaven's plan.
 Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
 Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

SERMON "Celebrate"
Reverend Tracie Martin

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY Celebration on "Easter Hymn "
Arr.: Boertje

THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 233 *The Day of Resurrection!*
CCLI#1622560

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over, with hymns of victory.**

**Let hearts be purged from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth the song begin;
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.**

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 Steve and Amanda Bock in honor of their 28th wedding anniversary April 17, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 18-25, 2021

TODAY

The Third 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

Tuesday: 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting
7:00 PM – Session Meeting via ZOOM
Wednesday: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
12:00 NOON -- "Snackin & Chattin" via ZOOM
Thursday: 10:00 AM – Tai Chi @ the Picnic Shelter
Friday: 7:00 PM – Young Adult Bonfire

NEXT SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

4-Cents-A-Meal Offering
Worship led by Reverend Gary Robbins
In-Person Worship – 8:30 AM
G.I.F.T. Event via ZOOM – 9:45 AM
Live Stream Worship—11:00 AM
Youth Kite Flying & Egg Hunt – 3:00 PM

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

OPC Family/Staff
Nadine DeHaven
Paula McNichols
Carol Tubbs
Pam Bayliss
Lance Weeks
Ann & Edgar Tufts
Jack Grubbs
Laurel Hathaway & Family
Sandy Haney
Nancy & 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)
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.

A "GIFT" EVENT- NEXT 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. The zoom link will be sent out from the church office.

CHILDREN'S OBJECT LESSON

This week's children's lesson is titled "**You're Not Penniless**". Hope you found your own penny stuck inside the lesson pages that were mailed to elementary children this week. Have fun as you read the story and discover what a penny can teach us all. Use your penny wisely.

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN NEEDS

The Opequon Presbyterian Church Roots & Shoots Garden is in need of **3 or 4 full-sized rounded blade shovels** and a **patio umbrella stand/base**.

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!

TURKEY FEAST-THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who ordered Turkey Feast Meals! Youth, Parents, & Leaders enjoyed baking, cooking, and serving. We were able to distribute over 30 meals to additional members and people who are homebound. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will go to support neighbors in our immediate community who live in low-income housing.

WORSHIP NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

Do you find church music tends toward sadness? Why do you think this is?

How did today's music help you settle into worship?

Notes on Today's Children of All Ages Sermon

Were you raised that we should not laugh in church? Do you think Jesus had a sense of humor?

Notes on Today's Prayers

Can prayers run too long? How much is enough?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

How and when do you feel the joy of faith?

Do you enjoy life and the gifts of God?

What could help you enjoy them more?