

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, ELEVEN O'CLOCK

EASTER

APRIL 24, 2011

GREETING

He is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

"Entrata Festiva"

Flor Peeters

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Oh sing to God a new song.

People: For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: Because of God's steadfast love to Israel,

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Leader: For now is Christ risen from the dead!

People: Make a joyful noise unto God, all the earth.

Leader: Break forth into joyous song and praises.

People: For God will rule the earth with righteousness.

Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Jesus our risen Christ. Amen.

*OPENING PRAYER

MOMENT FOR CHILDREN

Releasing the Alleluias!

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 123

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

EASTER HYMN

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you gave your only Son to die for the sin of the world:

We confess that we often fail to hold firmly to the message of his resurrection.

We have not responded to your love with our whole hearts;

we too often fall victim to despair and fear;

we are indifferent to the cries of the poor and the calls for peace;

we, who should praise you every day, are strangely silent.

Take away the sting of death and put within us your victory for life.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 111 (v. 2)

"Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!"

GELOBT SEI GOTT

The Lord of life is risen today!
Bring flowers of song, bedeck the way;
Let every tongue rejoice and say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING pg. 201

Colossians 3:1-4

ANTHEM

"Hilariter"

arr. K. Lee Scott

Let all the world with joy resound, Hilariter, hilariter!
For Christ the pow'rs of death cast'd down. Alleluia, alle, alleluia!
Throughout the earth his praises sing, Hilariter, hilariter!
Let all the courts of heaven ring, Alleluia, alle, alleluia!
The singing birds lift high their voice: Hilariter, hilariter!
The trees in verdure all rejoice. Alleluia, alle, alleluia!
The sun more brightly mounts the sky, Hilariter, hilariter!
To honor him, our Lord most high, Alleluia, alle, alleluia!
To God, the Father, Son be giv'n, Hilariter, hilariter!
With Spirit, praise in highest heav'n, Alleluia, alle, alleluia!
Sing alle, alleluia!

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***Gateway to Worship*

GOSPEL READING pg. 114

John 20:1-18

SERMON

Letting Go of Jesus

Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING FAITHFULLY TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN # 495

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

ENGELBERG

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION AND SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God, the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontus Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (pg. 16 – Traditional Version)

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Hymn # 120 *"Hail Thee, Festival Day!"* SALVE FESTA DIES

[The choir will sing stanzas 1-4; the congregation is invited to join on the Refrain following each stanza]

***Doxology** *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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***Prayer of Dedication**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN # 113** *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!"* LLANFAIR

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *"The Strife Is O'er"* arr. David N. Johnson

*For those who are able, please stand.

****Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year olds through first graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Anthem.

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Hearing devices and large-print Hymnals are available in the back of the sanctuary; and a limited number of large-print bulletins are on the table in the Narthex.

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WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join with us in service to Christ.

Please join us in the library immediately following worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God
and in honor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church congregation by the Cheek Family.*

Sharing Brings Joy. To Others, to God and to Us. The **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will be received today. Please join with people from thousands of churches in nine different denominations, reaching out together as one great Christian community to share with and care for Jesus' sheep.

This morning Covenant welcomes our confirmands Drew Amstutz, Joseph Cary, Julia Hagelberg, Linden Hillhouse, Carolee Mabe, Sean Moakler and Shannon Moakler into active membership by Profession of Faith and Mark Jones through baptism. We would like to express our gratitude toward their mentors who have journeyed with them through the confirmation process: Jim Amstutz, Fred Dulin, Amy Hecht, Melanie Jones, Karen Mabe, Eileen Madden, David Miller, and Gary Smith.

Our thanks to our guest brass players for their wonderful contribution to our Easter worship.

The pastor will be on a leave of absence for the month of May. Rev. Dr. Barbara Edema will fill the pulpit and be available for other pastoral duties during this time.

The Church office will be closed on Monday, April 25th.

The **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation.

The **May Courier** can be found on the table in the narthex. **Help us save postage!** **Be sure to pick up your copy!** If you do not receive a newsletter this month, either printed or via e-mail, please let Tina know.

Today at Covenant:

Morning Greeter: Jim Starr
Liturgist: Jim Amstutz
Acolytes: Julia Hagelberg & Carolee Mabe
Chimer: Cameron Hopkins
Gateway: Melissa Hopkins
Nursery: Karen Mabe
Coffee Hosts: Helen Davis, Jim Starr & Arlene Wilkinson

Trumpet
Eric Feltman
Lee Ruffin

Trombone
Hilary Maitlen
Christian Zembower

This Week at Covenant:

Today, April 24 - Easter

7:00a Easter Sunrise Service
8:00a Potluck Breakfast
11:00a Traditional Easter Service

Monday, April 25

Church Office Closed
6:00p Way of Discernment Small Group Study

Tuesday, April 26

7:00p Christian Education Committee Meeting
7:30p AI-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, April 27

5:00p WNL!
7:15p Choir Practice

Thursday, April 28

8:00a Men's Bible Study
9:30a Women's Bible Study Group
Noon AI-Anon Meeting

People in our Prayers

Barbara & Jerry Ladich, Bob Maletich, Julia Trifiletti, Fern Kemp (Evelyn's mother), Roger Hecht, Jack Fletcher, Marie Britt, Hazel Rowe, Jim Crandall, Catie Cheek, Ted Bair (Lynnea Fisher's father), Chris Adler Hillhouse, Arlene Wilkinson, Corrine Broyles, Lattie Collins, Rose Willis, Hazel Hinkle (John Merriss' sister-in-law), Patricia Chafin (former member of Covenant), John Brumit (Betsy Moakler's brother), Max Wilson, Pat Adams, Vi Block, Elva McCartt, Patsy Young (Butch Carr's cousin), Arthur "Bud" & Eileen Kelsey; Joyce Ford; Tim Jones; Bill Gose, and Dr. Joe Walton (friends of Butch & Harriette Carr)

If you know of other reasons for rejoicing or concerns you would like to share with others please complete a prayer card with your requests.

You Have Mail:

Melissa Hopkins (under mailboxes in office)

Cornelia Shelnutt

Church Staff:

Pastor:

Rev. Sharon H. Amstutz

Director of Youth Ministry:

Andy Irvin

Music Director:

Larry Brandenburg

Secretary:

Tina Simon

Financial Secretary:

Anne Webb

Custodian:

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