

**Gilead Presbyterian Church
April 12, 2020; Easter Sunday**

Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **People: He is Risen indeed!**

OPENING MUSIC “To God Be the Glory”
Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SCRIPTURE Psalms 118:24; Isaiah 65:17-18

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: Heaven and earth will never be the same!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad!

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: He is Risen indeed!

OPENING HYMN “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, lift up strength, earthly power and status as gods, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

SILENT PRAYER
ASSURANCE OF PARDON
DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 31:1-6

¹ ...I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

² Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

³ the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be built,

O virgin Israel!

Again you shall take your tambourines,

and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards

on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant,

and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶ For there shall be a day when sentinels will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:

"Come, let us go up to Zion,

to the LORD our God."

GOSPEL READING Matthew 28:1-10

¹ After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "**Greetings!**" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "**Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.**"

WE SEAL THE WORD

HYMN

“Christ Is Alive!”

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.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

WE BEAR THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“The Day of Resurrection!”

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.

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

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE