



Christ is Risen

Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024

EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Mission Statement

“Ebensburg Presbyterians
are Christians giving help
and hope to all by sharing God’s love

GATHERING

Bell Choir and piano “Ascension”

Bell Peal

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Choral Intro “Christ is Risen” “Easter Fanfare

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, we come this morning with eager anticipation seeking to know you, to see you, to touch you. Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew. Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection. May we proclaim your steadfast, liberating love to all people, everywhere. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively) John 20

Why have you come this morning?

We come to experience the Risen Christ.

How will you know him?

Through the love and life we feel present in this gathering of the Body of Christ.

What will you do with this experience?

We will go forth, witnesses to this amazing act of love.

*HYMN #113 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

*CALL TO CONFESSION

We confess that we come to this day of resurrection as imperfect people. We may have faith yet we also carry doubts and apprehensions. Just as Jesus’s disciples were unsure of his presence with them, we are unsure of your presence with us. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

Risen Lord, we’ve seen the empty tomb, and yet sometimes we act as if we’ve seen nothing. Why must we continue in fear? Why must we be afraid of death even after its defeat? Yes, this is a glorious day, but forgive us when we’re quick to forget the Good News of this day. Help us be a people of the Resurrection not just on this day but every day. Fill our hearts with your resurrection promise of life that we might turn from sin and be renewed. Eliminate our fear of sin that we might tell this glad story that Christ is

risen, he is risen, indeed! This we pray in the name of your Risen Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.
(Moment of Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Responsively):

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, hear the good news of the Gospel: the tomb is empty! Our Lord and Savior has risen from the grave! That which has been dead is alive!

No barrier, none whatsoever, can keep us from the love of God! Through Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!

*GLORIA PATRI

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST (responsively)

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
(Please share the peace of Christ with those around)

Choir Anthem "Look Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious"

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Almighty God, today's Good News is so wondrous, so magnificent, that we struggle to wrap our heads around it. Give our hearts the wisdom to receive that which our heads can't fully understand. Allow your Spirit to fill our entire bodies with your resurrection promise. This we pray in your holy and wondrous name. Amen

SCRIPTURES

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 118:14-24

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 24:1-12

SERMON: "CHRIST IS RISEN"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN #119 "The Strife is Over, the Battle Won"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came

down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray: **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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, you have given us so much in Jesus Christ; hope, joy, and love. Above all, you have given us life! What can we give in return? If the whole world were ours, it wouldn't be enough. What do we have to offer you in gratitude? Take these gifts we bring, bless them, and multiply them for your glory. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN Red Hymnal #204 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord in the power of his resurrection. Alleluia! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Choral Postlude Hallelujah Chorus

Organ Recession "DuBois"