

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter

While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. The service is posted on the church's Facebook page, [on YouTube](#), and on the MPC website, www.mpchurch.net. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.

PRELUDE *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Elder of the Month: Dick Reese, 513-675-3569
- Deacon of the Month: Sandra Bowen, 513-236-7158

CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Roddy Hamilton

When Thomas touched the wounds and set himself free it was Easter day

When Peter's three "yes's" to Jesus finished his three denials it was Easter day

When Mary ready to embalm the dead ran in fear from the empty tomb it was Easter day

When the disciples looked from afar at a breakfast of fish on the beach it was Easter day

When Emmaus became synonymous with welcome and the breaking of bread with strangers it was Easter day

When Paul was blinded by the light and recognized the voice speaking in his head it was Easter day

When the hungry are fed at the table the same table as the rich it is Easter day

When weapons are beaten to ploughshares and peace is a word to be shouted it is Easter day

When the stranger is welcomed in community and the lonely are restored to relationship it is Easter day...

It is the Lord's day, and Jesus is risen. Let us worship God.

PRAYER

Breathe in this place, O Lord,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
to open our minds,
unlock our hearts,
and enliven our faith
so that we may welcome
the risen one among us. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just
Will forgive us our sins
And cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Trusting in God's mercy,
let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood,
yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ.

Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We have an advocate with God—Jesus Christ, the righteous one—who offered his life in love to save the world from sin.

This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

HYMN

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

GtG250

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all who doubt and believe, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life—Jesus Christ—our Lord and our God. Amen.

FIRST READING

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with

one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord

SECOND READING

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he

rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

In every time and every age...their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you...we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Blessed are you...now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Now the Green Blade Rises

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In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
F7 B^b Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
B^b Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.