

**\*Hymn** "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" No. 248

**Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer**

**The Offering of God's People**

**\* Offertory Response** "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" No. 240

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.  
Jesus is lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation.  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

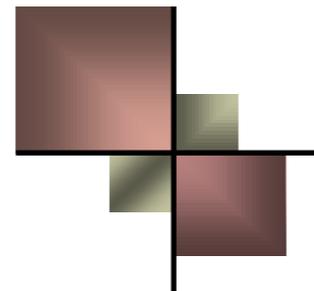
**\*Prayer of Dedication**

May generosity abound in our lives;  
from our awareness of your generous spirit, Lord,  
may our own gifts of money, time, ideas, or energy  
bring light into dark places and new life  
to those who can't even begin to imagine such a thing. Amen.

**\* Closing Hymn** "The Day of Resurrection!" No. 233

**\* Benediction**

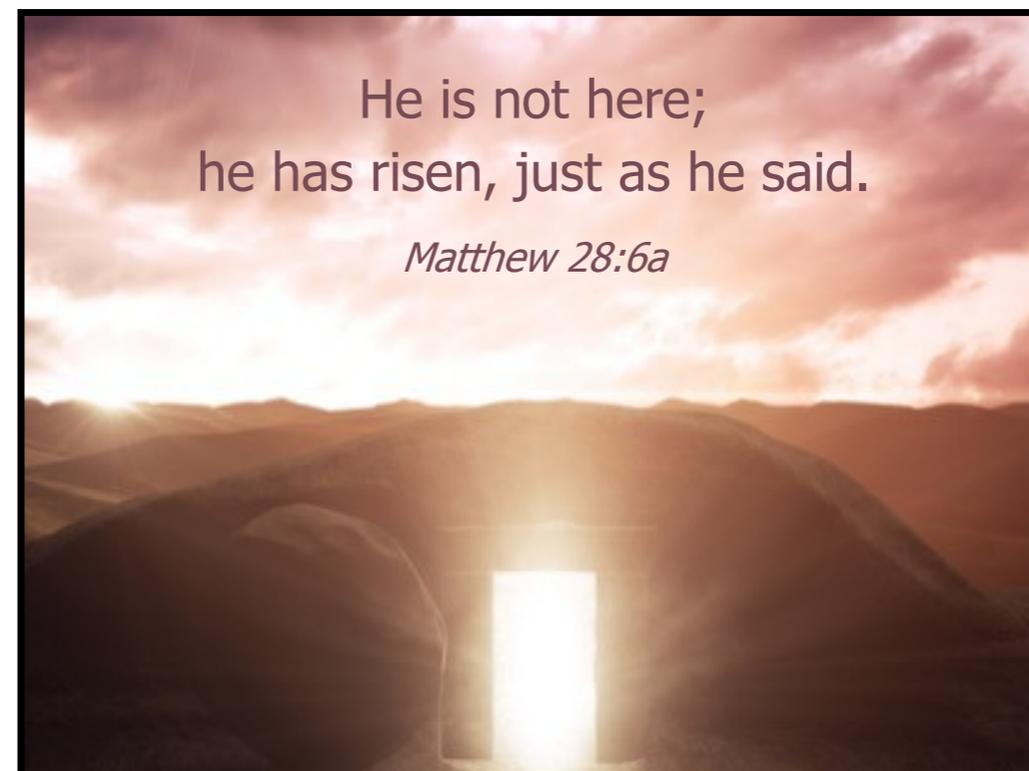
**\* Benediction Response**



# Highlawn

Presbyterian Church

APRIL 21, 2019  
EASTER SUNDAY



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# EASTER SUNDAY

**Prelude** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" Arr. Heather Sorenson

**Opening Words** (from *Circle of Grace*, by Jan Richardson)

If you are looking for a blessing, do not linger here. Here is only emptiness, a hollow, a husk where a blessing used to be. This blessing was not content in its confinement. It could not abide its isolation, the unrelenting silence, the pressing stench of death. So if it is a blessing you seek, open your own mouth. Fill your lungs with the air this new morning brings and then release it with a cry. Hear how the blessing breaks forth in your own voice, how your own lips form every word you never dreamed to say. See how the blessing circles back again, wanting you to repeat it, but louder, how it draws you, pulls you, sends you to proclaim its only word: *Risen. Risen. Risen.*

**\*Processional Hymn** "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" No. 232

## Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Confession

Even on this joy-filled day, we realize that there is still separation, still distance between us and our risen Savior. Let us do what we can to reduce that distance by admitting the ways we have failed to live in light of the new life we have received through Christ.

### Prayer of Confession

**This anniversary has occurred thousands of times, O Lord; its message proclaimed throughout the earth again and again. And still we fail to truly absorb its meaning for our own lives and for our communities. We hear the promise of resurrection, but fail to know how it might happen to us here and now; we miss seeing new life when it doesn't resemble what we already know; we give up on ourselves, on others, and on God when something appears hopeless. Remind us in those moments, Holy One, of an empty tomb with a stone rolled away, of Christ revealed to the women, and of the promises kept since that very day.**

*(Silent, personal confession)*

### Assurance of Pardon

This is the day of celebration when all forgiveness was made possible; realize and accept with gratitude that all our failures and our misguided moments have been swept away by the tide of Grace! Believe and live in light of that Grace, this day and always. Amen.

### Passing of the Peace

May peace always find a way into our hearts and our relationships. Share that peace now with each other in the name of Christ our Lord.

### Children's Message

**Anthem** "Risen Indeed!" Joseph M. Martin

**Scripture** Exodus 40: 34-38, Luke 24:1-12

**Sermon** "Impossible Beginnings" Rev. Dr. Dana Sutton

**\*Affirmation of Faith** The Nicene Creed Hymnal p. 34

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.