



Surprise

** Those who wish may stand * Words in **Bold** are Congregational Responses*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude : “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Alanna Cushing, piano arranged by Heather Sorenson

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We have not seen the risen Christ,

But we see him in the lives

of those transformed by grace.

We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,
**But we have seen him in the faces
of everyone whose love encourages us.**

We have not touched the wounds from the cross,
**But we have been called
to bring healing to the scarred of the world.**

***Hymn #238 "Thine Is the Glory"**

1. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son!
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son!
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!

2. Lo! Jesus meets us. Risen from the tomb,
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing:
for the Lord now liveth; death has lost its sting. [Refrain]

3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life.
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless
love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above!
[Refrain]

Call to Confession

Friends, let us come together to confess our sin and
receive God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

**When our faith stands at the grave, grieving for a
stone that's rolled away, forgive us.**

**When our faith is short of understanding though the
truth is there to see, forgive us.**

**When our faith, beset by doubt, sees no further than
an empty tomb today, forgive us.**

**Bring to mind the cry of Mary, "I have seen the
Lord!" and grant us faith to believe!**

(time for silent reflection and personal confession of sin)

Declaration of Forgiveness

The tomb is empty. The stone is rolled away. There is no darkness now, only light. God continues to renew us and restore us. We are forgiven, loved and restored, receiving the gift and promise of new life and resurrection now. Go and share the wondrous news of God's love in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Time for Children and The Young-at-Heart

Sarah Specht—Director of Christian Education

Anthem: "We Walk by Faith" Michael Helman

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Sermon: "A Surprise Party" Rev. Sharon Bell

***Hymn #231 "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers"**

1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers;
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.

Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!

2. Christ has risen for the people
whom he dies to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women,
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for the disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
can't be silenced by the tomb.

3. Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been:

evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

***Offering**

Presenting God our tithes and offerings

***Doxology #606**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Prayer of Thanks for the offering by God's people

Sharing Concerns and Joys

Please wait for one of the ushers to hand you a microphone so that all may be able to hear your prayer request. If you are joining by Zoom or Facebook– please send your prayer requests to the office at:

office@highlawnpc.org

Pastoral Prayer/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, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

***Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God, who created the world,
was faithful when we were not,
and who continuously seeks to redeem the world.**

**We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ,
who humbled himself by becoming human
and moving into our neighborhood;
was sent by the Father to give us life;
embodied and taught the righteous love of God;
and who, though he knew no sin,**

became sin and was put to death on a cross.

**We believe that three days later,
Jesus Christ was raised from the dead
by the power of God;
was seen in bodily form by his disciples.**

**We believe that the life, death,
and resurrection of Jesus
gives us victory over any form of sin and brokenness
and allows us to know the full love of God for the
world.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who actively works in our lives,
giving us grace to be like Jesus,
and sends us to show God's love for the world.**

***Hymn #254 "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"**

**1. That Easter day with joy was bright:
the sun shone out with fairer light
when to their longing eyes restored,
th'apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**2. He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide,
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.**

**3. From ev'ry weapon death can wield,
your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this, our joyful Easter-tide.**

***Benediction**

PLEASE NOTE !!!

HIGHTERIAN REMINDER

If you have something you would like included in the *MAY* issue of the Highterian, please send to the office by

Monday, April 25th

We are collecting Cleaning supplies and Paper Products to Support Grand Families. Grand Families is an outreach program of The Children's Home Society.

It gives support to Grandparents raising Grandchildren.

If you are interested in this mission opportunity you may leave donations in the Foyer or Donations Room

We are once again collecting snacks for Hospice House for the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Please bring individually wrapped snacks such as Little Debbie Cakes, crackers, chips, etc. Contact Ann S. for any questions.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun: Youth Mtg 3:00—5:00

Wed: 1:00 Bible Study with Sharon

