



Easter Lessons and Carol Service

Faith Presbyterian Church

April 1, 2018

Easter Lessons and Carols

Call to Worship

Paul

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

This is the day which the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious.

For his mercy endures forever. Amen.

Hymn 286

Law Reading

Ken

Ezekiel 18:4-9

Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. ⁵If a man is righteous and does what is just and right... ⁷ does not oppress anyone, but restores to the debtor his pledge, commits no robbery, gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment, ⁸ does not lend at interest or take any profit, withholds his hand from injustice, executes true justice between man and man, ⁹ walks in my statutes, and keeps my rules by acting faithfully—he is righteous; he shall surely live, declares the Lord God.

Corporate Confession (Unison)

Paul

Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess so often fail to live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious, oppressing others by word and deed. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 295

Pastoral Prayer

Keith

Tithes and Offerings

Keith

First Lesson: God's Everlasting Love Proclaimed

Mike

Jeremiah 31:1-6

“At that time, declares the Lord, I will be the God of all the clans 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 adorn yourself with tambourines and shall 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 watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.’”

Hymn 39 (Song book)

Second Lesson: Savior’s Coming Foretold

Paul

Isaiah 52:7-15

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
...¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.¹⁴ As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

Hymn 246

Third Lesson: Atonement Made in Jerusalem

Ken

John 19:16-30

So they took Jesus,¹⁷ and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴ so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

... ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Hymn 276

Fourth Lesson: The Empty Tomb

Paul

Luke 24:1-9

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

Hymn 277

Fifth Lesson: Risen Christ Revealed

Mike

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Corporate Prayer (Unison)

Keith

O almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt; may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sixth Lesson: The New Jerusalem

Ken

Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Hymn 546

Proclaiming the Resurrection (Responsive)

Keith

Pastor: Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more;

People: Death hath no more dominion over him.

Pastor: For in that he died, he died unto sin once.

People: But in that he lives, he lives unto God.

Pastor: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin;

People: But alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Keith

Hymn 17 (Songbook)

Benediction

Keith

May he who like a lamb was led to the slaughter, and like a lion overthrows the powers of evil, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight. He who calls you is faithful and he will surely do it. The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you all evermore. Amen.