



Progressive Christian Alliance

an inclusive community ministering in a diverse world

Liturgy for Resurrection Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 2023

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Leader: The Eternal One – whose light is here in our midst – made the world in beauty, and is restoring all things in beauty through Jesus Christ. Wherever God's image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the Spirit of Jesus Christ is working in justice, love, and peace through us.

All: Alleluia!

Leader: Blessed is our God: Eternal, Christ, and Spirit.

All: And blessed is God's commonwealth that brings peace to the world.

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

HEARING A STORY OF FAITH

Leader: Hear now a story from the Gospel according to John, a gift from our ancestors in faith to help us in our journey with the Christ:

Reading: After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move.

The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed. Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message."

The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Peace be with you!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Get up! Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the ages."

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy words.

All: Thanks be to God.

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hold space for reflection in community.

All: Some One there is who ever loves us all,
whose grace declares none of us unclean,
in whose life and death barriers come down:
Jesus is one who doesn't love a wall.

To love our neighbour, near and far, our call,
and more: to love as Jesus loved, for that,
he stated, truly marks his followers.
Jesus is one who doesn't love a wall.

And this Peter discovered in the fall
of a rigid prejudice held so long
only the voice of God could shake it loose —
our Lord is one who doesn't love a wall.

May this, too, be our vision, seeing all

as God sees, undivided by our fears,
resentments, our old sinful selfishness,
God-graced to share the gospel without walls.

Leader: We confess our faith as shared by the Alliance: We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, we trust in that love: and in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and in the power of the Spirit of love, and in the company of all the faithful past, present, and yet to come, so to be the Church, for the glory of God. Amen.

FEASTING AT THE TABLE

Leader: The Holy One be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Eternal One, our God.

All: It is good and right to give our thanks.

Leader: Our souls outburst in praise to you, God of Israel, architect of galaxies, earth sculptor, life breather. Your light floods the darkest recesses of our humanity, comforting, healing, restoring. In you is the dawning of our hope. In you is the life of the world. In you are witnesses and servants of the Word. In you are the songs of old men and young women. In you is Table and home. In you is the mercy promised to our ancestors. In you is the unseating of the arrogant and the raising up of poor. And so we surround your Table with Mary and Martha, with Levi and Zacchaeus, with the forgiven woman with her tears and her perfume, with all earth's returning prodigals, with all whose feet want to dance but cannot, joining all creation in heaven's unending song:

All: Holy, holy, holy God of justice and love! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Save us; hosanna. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Eternal One. Hosanna; save us.

Leader: Holy and blessed is Teacher you raised up for us, Jesus, Mary's child, who opens the way of salvation, leading us home to your loving arms. Healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and eating with sinners, he crossed boundaries proclaiming your reign among us. By the mystery of his incarnation, death, and resurrection, he has continued with the Church in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and the prayers. At Pentecost your Spirit unleashed a song-singing, story-telling, table-sharing people from

Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. On the night he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and said "This is my body given for you." And he took a cup, gave thanks to you and said: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." In this meal of hope, liberate us by your Spirit's anointing to embody good news to the poor, to declare release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the disheartened and the abused, as we live in the light of the mystery we call faith.

All: Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life. Come to us Christ, come in resurrection glory!

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Let them be for us the love and goodness of God, that we may be for each other and the world the body of Christ in healing, hope, and goodness. Blessing and glory are yours, mighty God, here and everywhere, now and forever!

Leader: We pray together as Jesus taught us...

All: Eternal One, holy is your name. Your commonwealth come to us and transform this world to a vision of peace and love. May we be satisfied with enough and no more. Save us from hardship, deliver us from evil. Amen.

We share bread and wine in community.

THE SENDING RITES

Leader: Let us go with God into the world.

All: We will offer healing and hope to all who wander in the shadows of life.

Leader: Let us go with Jesus to serve others.

All: We will listen to the ignored; we will speak out for the forgotten.

Leader: Let us go with the Spirit to share steadfast love.

All: We will hold on to the fallen; we will rebuild shattered communities.

Leader: And the blessing of God, who lives and loves in Holy Communion – The Lover, the Beloved, and the Love – be with you

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Liturgists:

The Rev'd Kenneth Boggs, *Interim Chaplain for the Progressive Christian Alliance*

The Rev'd Dr. Sam Lopez, *Co-Chair and Interim Ordination Chair for the Progressive Christian Alliance*

The Rev'd Helen Drivick, *Treasurer and Interim Co-Chair for the Progressive Christian Alliance*

The Rev'd Christopher Wickersham, *Interim Secretary for the Progressive Christian Alliance*

The Rev'd Dr. Christopher Montgomery, OSL, *Communications Chair for the Progressive Christian Alliance*

Credits:

The opening prayer and collect were adapted from liturgy resources provided by Vanderbilt Divinity School (lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu).

The scripture reading was adapted from the Message translation.

The prayer of confession was adapted from a poem by Andrew King (earth2earth.wordpress.com).

The Great Thanksgiving was adapted from Rite II from the Lukan Book of Feasts with the Order of Saint Luke.

The sending response was adapted from a sending prayer written by Thom Shuman (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com).