ORGAN PRELUDE

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ
Johann Sebastian Bach

“Jesus Christus, Unser Heiland, Der Den Tod Überwand, BWV 626”
(Jesus Christ Our Savior, Who Overcame Death)
“Heut Triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630”
(Today the Son of God Triumphs)

OPENING WORDS

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The almighty and eternal God is the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt. May our worship this morning enliven us in the good news of the Easter season. For we profess that the risen Lord is here. Jesus stands among us. How good and pleasant it is when the people of God live and worship in unity.

PRAYER OF ADORATION (in unison)

The Rev. Dr. Bush

God of Easter signs and resurrection wonder, you have revealed to us that Jesus Christ is your son and our Savior. We worship and praise you, Triune Lord; in you our hearts are glad and our spirits rejoice. Strengthen us now through this time of worship that we may serve you faithfully in the days ahead. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

* HYMN #233 (vs. 1 and 3)

“The Day of Resurrection!”

LANCASHIRE

Indicates where to please rise in spirit.
CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of this day and we praise you for your grace and mercy, renewed with the dawning of each morning. As people of God, we gather together, while yet apart, giving you thanks for Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and we witness to the power of the Holy Spirit that is ever present, leading, and guiding our lives. Yet, we admit, especially now that we are apart, we feel afraid, abandoned, and lonely; our faith sometimes waivers and doubt and questions arise. We acknowledge that we are often so concerned about our own well-being that we fail to see the need, hopelessness, or hurt experienced by others. Lord Jesus Christ, unlike those first disciples, we cannot touch or see you, and so it is all too easy to become downcast and given to despair. Forgive us when, like the disciples, we find the truth of the Resurrection difficult to believe. Restore the joy of our salvation and give us a peace that surpasses all understanding. Come to us, risen Christ. Come through the doors of our closed eyes that we might see, our deaf ears that we might hear; open our hardened hearts and take away our fears and doubts. Come to us, risen Christ, breathe on us, and fill us with the joy and peace of your presence. God of grace, receive our silent prayers of confession this day.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYERS

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Siblings in Christ, people of God, Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
¡Aleluya y Amén! Hallelujah and Amen!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

I Peter 1:3-4, 8-9, 13 Dr. Moore

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Sara Hackett

HYMN #254

That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light,
When, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord.

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.

From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
The Rev. Dr. Bush

GOSPEL LESSON
John 20:19-23
The Rev. Dr. Bush
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.”

SERMON
“A Spiritual Partnership”
The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

ANTHEM
“This Joyful Eastertide”
arr. Alice Parker/Robert Shaw
text: George Ratcliffe Woodward
This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow:
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now is Christ arisen.

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number:
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now is Christ risen.

Death’s flood has lost its chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver:
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now is Christ arisen.

Recorded live on Easter, March 27, 2016
ELPC Chancel Choir

OFFERING INVITATION
The Rev. Dr. Bush
We offer our gifts in response to God’s love, and the grace of Jesus Christ, which we seek to make known through the ministries of this congregation. Please visit www.ELPC.church/donate if you would like to make a contribution.

HYMN #246 (vs. 1 and 2)
“Christ Is Alive!”
Truro
Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION
The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE
“Christ Lag In Todesbanden, BWV 625”
(Johann Sebastian Bach)
Dr. Moore, organ

April 19 • 1st Sunday after Easter
THE DAY OF RESURRECTION! (vs. 1 and 3)

1 The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Pass-over of gladness, the Pass-over of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

2 Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own “All hail!” and bearing, may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph and all that is there in.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

MUSIC: Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835

LANCASHIRE
7.6.7.6.D
(this tune in a lower key, 269)
THAT EASTER DAY WITH JOY WAS BRIGHT

1 That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
2 He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the
3 From every weapon death can wield, your own re-

out with fairer light when, to their long ing
glorious wounds abide, the tokens true which
deemed forever shield; O Lord of all, with

eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord.
made it plain their Lord indeed was risen again.
us abide in this our joyful Easter-tide.

These Eastertide stanzas are derived from a longer Latin text that was one of the earliest hymns written especially for a season of the church year. They are set here to a tune with Christmas associations, a means of linking the two great festivals of the Christian year.

MUSIC: Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609
PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
LM
(alternate harmonization, 67)
Christ Is Alive! (vs. 1 and 2)

1 Christ is a-live! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is a-live! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

3 In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

4 Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the this and every age, till earth and sky and life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5 Christ is a-live, and comes to bring good news to ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.
As part of ELPC’s mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on:

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