



Worship
Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023, 11:15 am

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Centering Music

+Call to Worship

They went to the cross,

And watched you breathe your last.

So they ran to the upper room,

And locked the door in fear.

Then the women went to the tomb,

But you were not there.

You were not there.

You were already set loose in the world—spreading a holy type of love.

So find us here.

Spread love here.

Thanks be to God for a love like that! **Amen.***

+Hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful #20*

Call to Confession

Easter is a story of transformation—

Death to life; despair to hope; betrayal to forgiveness.

We need that type of transformation—every day and all the time.

So join me in the prayer of confession, for in our truth-telling with the divine, we are transformed.*

Let us pray—

Prayer of Confession

God of new life,

We need Easter like the desert needs rain. For you give us unending love, and we turn it into a commodity.

You give us mystery, and we force it into certainty. You give us community, and we set rules about who is in and who is out. You give us grace, but we hold grudges against our neighbors. You give us light and we ration it out to those we believe deserve it.

God of grace, Forgive us for our shortcomings.

Dwell among us like rain in the desert—holy and unexpected—until new life grows here.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.* (*Moment of silent prayer*)

Assurance of Pardon

Family of Faith— In the act of the cross, Jesus Christ experienced almost every type of hardship humans can inflict on one another—isolation, abandonment, physical and emotional abuse, shame, betrayal. You name it, he faced it.

And still— and still— He came back for us.

Friends— No matter what you have done or left undone, you are known and loved by a God of unimaginable grace. Like rain in the desert, your sin is washed clean.

So during this Easter season and every day, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: You are forgiven. Thanks be to God.*

Response of Praise *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks #240 (refrain only)*

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name. (3x)

Passing of the Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Anthem

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

God of love,

There are so many words in a day— To-do lists and stress, self-talk and notifications.

There are so many words, and yet the only words we really need are yours.

So today we pray—drown out every voice but your own.

Drown out every voice but your own, and speak to us through this text, for we are craving good news.

We are desperate for your risen love.

With gratitude we pray, Amen.*

Scripture Reading **Acts 2:1, 36-42** ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say... ³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Hymn *Christ Has Risen! Shout Hosanna! #248*

Gospel Reading **Luke 24:13-35** ¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these

things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Offering Prayer

L: The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,

P: The world, and those who live in it.

L: Heaven and earth are yours, O Lord,

P: and of your own we give you.

L: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; in the way of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray, saying: ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

Response of Praise *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful #654 (3x) *new**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

In the face of Jesus Christ, the wondrous will of God is revealed. God of glory, **transform this world.**
 For your Church in every place, that we may worship and serve you faithfully . . .
 For leaders and people in every land, that they may know your way and do your will . . .
 For justice throughout the world, that there may be peace and plenty for all . . .
 For the earth you have made, that it may flourish in beauty and show your glory . . .
 For all those who hunger and thirst, that they may be filled with good things . . .
 For those who are ill or close to death, that they may know your loving care . .

Holy One, as you are well pleased with Christ, help us to live in a way that will be pleasing to you. As you have called us to listen to Christ, help us to always heed his word and seek his will.**

Taking the Word into the World

+Song *Great God of Every Blessing #694*

+Charge and Benediction

+Stand as you are able

**Liturgy by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

***Liturgy from The Book of Common Worship, PC(USA)*

Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 23, 2023

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Scriptures for Sunday, April 30

Acts 2:42–47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19–25
John 10:1–10

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy
Ruth Roeber
The McDermott family
Johanna Willis
The Kleier family
Jean Jennings' family
Emilee Walden
Kelly Montana
Lynda Jaeger
Ron Carlin
Ella Grace Marksberry

Worship Services

Join us for in-person services at 710 Western Reserve Rd., Crescent Springs, KY. You can also worship with us online via Facebook Live, or by joining the conference call. Worship services begin at 11:15 am.

Liturgists Needed

Liturgists are needed to help lead worship. Please sign up on the sheet on the welcome table. Thank you!

Brunch Church

Join us for Brunch Church on Sunday, April 30 at 11:15 am. Please sign up for food items or drinks to share (breakfast dishes, bread/pastries, drinks, etc.). This is a great event to invite friends and family to attend too!

Save the Date: CLASP Carrabba's Spring FUNd- Raisier

On Tuesday and Wednesday, April 25-26, Carrabba's restaurant at the Crestview Hills Town Center will sponsor a FUNd-raiser on behalf of CLASP. For every person who brings a CLASP coupon to the restaurant that day, Carrabba's will donate 20% of the purchase price to CLASP. Both dine-in and carryout meals will qualify for a donation. Coupons will be available shortly in the bulletin, and on the Community of Faith website and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cofnky>).