

April 4, 2010, 9:15 am - Fresh Spirit Worship - Easter Day

"I see the God in you. I greet the God in you."

Bill Wallace, New Zealand

As we gather for worship,
please introduce yourself to those around you.
There are no strangers in God's house.

CALL TO WORSHIP

He Is Risen Indeed!

Mike McClellan

*He is risen, risen indeed!
Darkness is ended, its prisoners freed.
New life in Christ will be all that we need,
When we rise with Him.
He is risen, he is risen indeed!*

(Repeat refrain)

Wipe every tear away,
Christ is alive today.
Death is no longer,
for God's love is stronger than death -
So we are raised with Christ!

(Refrain)

Why do we seek the dead among the living?
Why do we trust our eyes more than our hearts?
When He calls our name, takes away our shame,
The stone has been rolled away
and we are alive with Him.

(Refrain)

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WELCOME

EASTER CANDLE LITURGY

Liturgist: As is our tradition, we invite members of the confirmation class to come forward with the Christ candle for the new year.

Liturgist: We light a light in the name of God who lit the world and breathed the breath of life into us; in the name of the Son who saved the world and stretched out his hand to us; in the name of the Spirit who encompasses the world and blesses our souls with yearning.

All: *God above us, God beside us, God beneath us;
the beginning, the end, the everlasting one. Amen.*

REFLECTION FOR PEACE

GATHERING THE PEOPLE

One: This is the day

All: *when healing touches the suffering,
when loneliness discovers a family,
when peace caresses the stressed.*

One: This is the day the Lord

All: *breaks free of death's clutches,
rolls away the stone,
folds the grave clothes into a neat pile.*

One: This is the day the Lord has made,

All: *the day of sin's defeat,
the day of resurrection,*

the first day of the new creation.

One: This is the day!

All: *Christ is risen! Hallelujah!*

OPENING SONG (see insert) *This Is the Day!*

Bobby Fisher

RENEWING THE COVENANT

One: You bring us out from the tombs in which we have been buried.

All: *From the tomb of apathy you bring us to action,
from the tomb of guilt you bring us to a fresh start,
from the tomb of uncaring you bring us to compassion,
from the tomb of self-focus you bring us to generosity,
from the tomb of fear you bring us to faith.*

-----Time for silent reflection-----

One: We rise to new life in Christ,

All: *as we walk with freedom and confidence.*

One: We rise to new life in Christ,

All: *as we refuse to compromise with the truth.*

One: We rise to new life in Christ,

All: *as talents are used to promote justice and inclusiveness.*

One: We rise to new life in Christ,

All: *as we take the lifestyle of Jesus as our example.*

One: God's peace is yours; God's pardon sets you free!

All: *Thanks be to God! Amen.*

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

(Children are invited to hear God's word in their classes.)

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-18

NIV

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Fa-

ther. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERING SONG (see insert) *God is Alive!*

David Haas

DOXOLOGY

*We thank you God for all you have given.
Now we return a portion to you -
For all that we have, and all that we are,
We bring our gifts, and thank you God for life.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

I Corinthians 15:50-58

NIV

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

SERMON

The Gospel of John—Resurrection Rev. Thomas D. York

FOCUS SONG (see insert)

Alleluia! Alleluia!

David Haas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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, for ever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG (see insert) *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Lyra Davidica

BLESSING THE PEOPLE

Sources for today's liturgy:

Easter Candle Liturgy: Adapted from *Gifts of Many Cultures, Tirabassi* and Eddy. Gathering: *Lectionary Worship Aids, Series VIII, Cycle A*, Shuman; Renewing the Covenant: *Prayers to Share, Year C*, Sparks.

If you feel called to serve God by researching, writing or speaking liturgy in future services, please feel free to talk with any of the worship leaders or drop a note in the offering plate.

Fresh Spirit Prayer Request cards and offering envelopes are available in the black fellowship pad folders. If you have a prayer request, concern or joy you wish to share, please fill out a card and place it in the offering bags. All concerns and joys are welcome!

