

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

March 31, 2024, at 10:00am

EASTER SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRESERVICE MUSIC

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

“Alleluia”

“Because He Lives”

“He Lives”

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

“Christ Is Alive!”

“Majesty, Worship His Majesty”

“He Is Lord”

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS/ PRAYER REQUESTS

OPENING PRAYER

CHIMES

PRELUDE

“Gloria” (Mozart)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 118:24

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

***OPENING HYMN #232**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (Lyra Davidica)

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus' rising from the dead assures us that we, too, have been given new life.

Let us repent of our sin before God and one another, certain of God's mercy.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

All-knowing, all-powerful God, we confess that, even on this most holy day, we are unable to believe in the victory over death shown to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We confess our utter dependence on you not only for life but also for faith, hope, and love. Without your astonishing appearance to our ancestors and your stunning presence throughout the ages, we would be lost. Forgive us and transform us, that in every way our work and prayer will make whole what is broken and give peace on earth. Amen.

(Please take a moment for silent confession.)

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors, the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation. You shall not die but live. The rejected cornerstone has become your strength and your song. I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, who lives and reigns as Mother of us all, now and forever.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN #582** *“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”* (Vasile)

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Please exchange these words with your neighbors: “The peace of the Lord be with you.” “And also with you.”

REFLECTION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Reverend Rose McCurdy

ENSEMBLE CHOIR

“An Easter Carol” (Feeley)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your Word we may receive new life. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

FIRST READING

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

SECOND READING

John 20:1–18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Whom Are You Looking For”

Reverend Rose McCurdy

***HYMN #248**

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!” (Beethoven)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With compassion for our needs, the Risen One stands beside us, calling our names. Let us, with that same mercy, bring forth tithes and offerings to relieve the suffering of this world and to proclaim far and wide the good news of resurrection life.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” (Handel)

***DOXOLOGY #606**

Genevan Psalter

PASTORAL PRAYER/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, forever. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN #450**

“Be Thou My Vision” (Irish Ballad)
(March Hymn of the Month)

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.
Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.

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