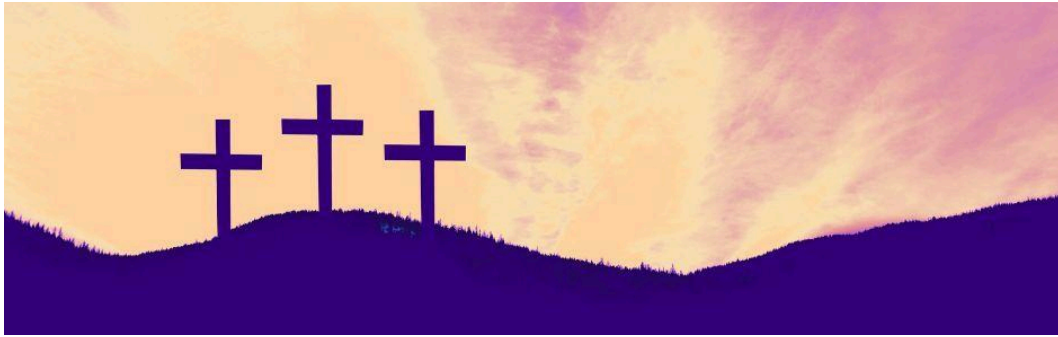


# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 31ST, 2024 | EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE | 8:00AM



THE CHAPEL AT SCOTTISH ARGYLE CEMETERY

*Come, celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ with us! All are invited to sing, pray and participate in liturgy.*

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO HONOR GOD BY STANDING.

PRELUDE

CHRIST AROSE  
Tom Andrew, Keyboard

ROBERT LOWRY

IF CALL TO WORSHIP

Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity: you have won victory over death!

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

IF HYMN

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

DAVIDICA, 1708 & WESLEY, 1740

<sup>1</sup> Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

<sup>2</sup> Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

<sup>3</sup> But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

<sup>4</sup> Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of new life, we gather in the cold and first glimpses of the sun celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus. We gather here, hoping for hope. Do we dare believe what we celebrate today? Can we find faith to shout, or even whisper: "Death, where is your sting?" We confess our fixation on what seems unchangeable to us. Change us to believe that all things can be made new. Embolden us to live your resurrection in a world that hungers for your love and forgiveness.**

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray,  
**but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls.**  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 20:1 - 18

We are witnesses to these things: the Messiah is risen from the dead.  
**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL READING

*An Excerpt from the Confession of 1967: "The New Life"*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries.

The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail.

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

I HYMN

WERE YOU THERE?

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ARR. GAITHER, 1971

<sup>1</sup> Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

<sup>2</sup> Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

<sup>3</sup> Were you there when he rose up from the dead? (Were you there?)

Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he rose up from the dead? (Were you there?)

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 our debts, as we forgive our debtors, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and glory forever. Amen.**

I HYMN

BECAUSE HE LIVES

WILLIAM J. GAITHER, 1971

<sup>1</sup> God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus; He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

*Refrain: Because He lives I can face tomorrow; Because He lives all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.*

<sup>2</sup> How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy they give;  
But greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because He lives.

*Refrain*

<sup>3</sup> And then one day I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

*Refrain*

I CHARGE AND BLESSING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

I POSTLUDE

THINE IS THE GLORY

EDMOND BUDRY

***Baskets are available at the exits if you would like to give an offering.***

Thank you to those who helped lead this worship service, especially to our Youth:  
Argyle Greenlee, Emily Monroe, Will Monroe, Charlie Shipton and Molly Shipton  
Thank you to our musician, Tom Andrew.

Following this service, all are invited to gather for breakfast (provided by the Session) at WCPC, an  
Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30am, and then worship with Communion in the sanctuary at 10am.

***“A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ***



**MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

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