

ORDER OF WORSHIP - APRIL 7, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

Bishop Al Gwinn

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF JESUS

PRELUDE

This Joyful Eastertide
arr. David Cherwien

Dr. James Humlong

INTROIT

Raise a Song of Gladness
Jacques Berthier

Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Joan Wooden

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

We are witnesses to the love God has poured into us.

**We are witnesses of God's love,
sharing it with each person we meet.**

We are witnesses to everyone we encounter,
little children like us, sisters and brothers in God's family.

Let us share the good news, for Christ is risen!

***HYMN 312**

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

***A MODERN AFFIRMATION**

Where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is the one true church, apostolic and universal,
whose holy faith let us now declare:

**We believe in God the Father,
infinite in wisdom, power and love,
whose mercy is over all his works,
and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of man,
the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,
the ground of our hope,
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
as the divine presence in our lives,
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance
of the truth of Christ,
and find strength and help in time of need.**

We believe that this faith should manifest itself
in the service of love as set forth in the example
of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God
may come upon the earth. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 70

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bishop Al Gwinn

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir and Congregation

Lift High the Cross

arr. Carl F. Schalk

Please sing the refrain with the choir when cued by the director:

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.

Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our lives from death and hell.

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Joan Wooden

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Too often, Lord God,
we are hesitant in our proclamation;
seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.
Too often, Lord God,
we are half-hearted in our service;
reluctant to stand out from the crowd or to attract criticism.
Too often, Lord God,
we live as if dependent wholly on our own resources;

relying on our perceived skills and modest insights.
Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith
and open wide our hearts and minds to the immanent presence
of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

SILENT PRAYER OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ lived, died, and rose again for us,
even while we were sinners.
This is proof of God's love for us.
In the name of Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

HYMN 454

Open My Eyes, That I May See

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Bishop Al Gwinn

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF BLESSING**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Lynn Osborne

Luke 24: 44-49

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Pastor Parker Outman

"The Other Great Commission"

*HYMN 318

Christ Is Alive

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"Christ is Alive"
arr. Jason Payne

Dr. James Humlong

This morning's liturgy:

Call to Worship - written by Thom Shuman and posted
on **LiturgyLink**. <https://www.liturgylink.net/> (adapted)

Prayer of Confession - written by Rev. Malcolm Macdougall, and posted on the Church of
Scotland's **Starters for Sunday** website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/> (adapted)