

Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship
Easter Sunday | April 4, 2021
Liturgist: Brad Voyles | Sermon: Rev. Dennis Louis | Lead Musician: Scott Finch

Meditation: Psalm 16:8-11

8 I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. **9** Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. **10** For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. **11** You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Call To Worship: Psalm 115:12-18

L: The Lord has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;

ALL: he will bless those who fear the Lord, both the small and the great. May the Lord give you increase, you and your children!

L: May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth! The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man.

ALL: The dead do not praise the Lord, nor do any who go down into silence. But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!

L: He is Risen!

ALL: He is Risen Indeed!

Opening Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen Today | 277

1. "Christ the Lord is risen today," Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say; Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia! Sing ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia! Christ has burst the gates of hell; Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise; Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

3. Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head; Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

5. Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given; Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now; Alleluia! Hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

Pastoral Prayer Followed by 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, forever. Amen.

Responsive Reading of Psalm 116

L: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

ALL: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"

L: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

ALL: Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

L: I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. I believed, even when I spoke: "I am greatly afflicted"; I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars."

ALL: What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

L: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

ALL: O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

L: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

ALL: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

Song of Preparation: Up From the Grave He Arose | 276

1. Low in the grave he lay, Jesus, my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord.

Refrain: Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2. Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus, my Savior; vainly they seal the dead, Jesus, my Lord. *Refrain*

3. Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus, my Savior; he tore the bars away, Jesus, my Lord. *Refrain*

Sermon: "A Resurrection Shaped Community"

Word: Acts 2:22-47

22 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 25 For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." 29 Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an

oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, **31** he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. **32** This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. **33** Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. **34** For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, **35** until I make your enemies your footstool.'" **36** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. **37** Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" **38** And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." **40** And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." **41** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. **42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Questions for Reflection (*Please read Acts 1-3 for the full context*)

1. Peter's sermon in Acts 2 has two parts: (1) Discourse on the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:14-21) and (2) Discourse on the resurrection (Acts 2:22-36). What role does the Holy Spirit and the resurrection play in the formation of the early church community (Acts 2:37-47)?
2. Peter quotes from several OT passages in his sermon (Joel 2, Psalm 16, Psalm 110). Why do you think Peter quotes these passages and how do they help us understand why the people were convicted of sin (Acts 2:37)?
3. After being convicted of killing Jesus, the crowd asked Peter what they should do (vs. 37). Peter responded that they should repent and be baptized (vs. 38). How do repentance and baptism deal with the guilt of sin?
4. The early church leaders preached the doctrine of the resurrection throughout the book of Acts. In your own words, describe why the resurrection had such a profound impact on the early church community.
5. Reread Acts 2:42-47 and write out all the things this new community did as a result of Peter's sermon.
6. Peter warned the new church community against the cultural practices of the day that were antithetical to the practices of the new community (Acts 2:40). In what ways do you suppose the culture in their day was opposite to this newly formed Christian culture?

7. Does CVPC look like the community in Acts 2:42-47? If so, in what ways do we reflect this community? If not, what can we do to foster a community that resembles Acts 2:41-47? What are some of the challenges? What are some ways we can overcome those challenges?

The Gathering of Offerings & The Sending Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today | 273

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

2. 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!

3. 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!

4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

Benediction: 2 Peter 1:2-3a

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature... *so that all the peoples will say...*

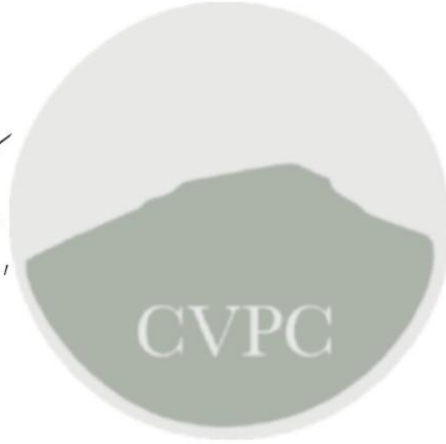
ALL: Amen. Our LORD is faithful. Praise the LORD!

Vision

To see lives transformed
through following Jesus.

Mission

Making disciples
through worship,
fellowship &
service.



Values

Worship,
Word,
Compassion &
Community

How to Connect with CVPC

Please visit www.chattvalleypca.com and click *connect with us*.

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