



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN C O N W A Y



EASTER SUNDAY
21 APRIL 2019

The art is an oil on canvas painted by Arthur Hughes, 1893-96, and is located at William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. It is entitled, He is risen: The first Easter.

TO ALL WHO ARE SPIRITUALLY WEAK & SEEK REST, WHO MOURN & LONG FOR COMFORT
WHO STRUGGLE & DESIRE VICTORY, WHO SIN & NEED A SAVIOR,
WHO ARE STRANGERS & WANT FELLOWSHIP,
WHO HUNGER & THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND TO WHOSEVER WILL COME,
THIS CHURCH OPENS WIDE HER DOORS & OFFERS WELCOME
IN THE NAME OF THE **LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

Our Worship and Celebration
(Easter Sunday)

God Welcomes Us

GATHERING HYMN

v.1 - Hymn #194

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Leader: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Rusty Mosley

PRELUDE

“Come, Let Us Sing”

- Paxton

(“✠” please stand if you are able.)

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

People: Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow.

Leader: The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

People: He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.”

– *Matthew 28:1-8*

✦ HYMN

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Hymn #194

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

God Cleanses Us

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Father, we cry out to you as people who are sitting in the depths. On the surface, we profess to have it all together. Some of us claim to have mastered our lives through our competence. Others of us distance ourselves from pain and disappointment through our deep cynicism. Most of us do both in a desperate attempt to maintain control.

But you know every nook and cranny of our hearts. You know the games we play. You know our insecurity. You know our fear. You know that we would rather die than give control of our lives to you. Our fear, anxiety and misery flow from our distrust of you.

So Father, the only reason we come to you now is because you have promised to embrace us. Your love for us is even stronger than our distrust. We believe that since you drove your own Son away from your embrace, you will now run to us. Forgive us and heal us we pray, for Jesus' sake. Hear us now as we lift our personal confessions to you . . .

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦ HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“Gloria Patri”

Hymn # 705

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

God Strengthens Us through His Word and Sacrament

FIRST READING

Matthew 28:1-7 (p.835)

¹ Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”

Hayes

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

SECOND READING

Romans 6:3-5 (p.942)

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

1st Peter 1:3 (p.1014)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Nicene Creed, A.D. 325

We believe in one God, The Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

God Sends Us

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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

MINISTRY OF MERCY—TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

- arr. Berry

✠ DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✦ HYMN

“Low in the Grave He Lay”

Hymn #207

✦ BENEDICTION

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

POSTLUDE

“Fanfares on ‘Easter Hymn’”

- arr. Lau

(Please be seated during the postlude to reflect on the worship service, consider God’s Word, and prepare your response as you follow Christ’s light into the world.)

Announcements:

- ◇ We will pick up the litter along our little section of Prince Street Saturday, April 27; at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the church a few minutes before 9:00 a.m. if you can help. Hopefully, it will not rain and we will be through by 10:30 a.m.
- ◇ **Grace Gardens** will meet Tuesday, April 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the home of Nancy Davis. The Purple Book by Rice Brooks and Steve Murrell will be the new study book. New members are welcome!
- ◇ If you are visiting with us today, please fill out the visitor card found on the pew Bible and drop it in the offering plate. Check the boxes and let us know if you would like more information about our church or if you would like us to pray for you.

Prayer Concerns:

Bette Callaway, friend of Herman and Betty Ellis; Bill Conner; Darren Cox, friend of Josh McConkie; Charlie Cullum, friend of Annette Sackhoff; Stuart Dornblaser, brother-in-law of Ken Hunter; Jeannene Ellis, sister-in-law of Herman and Betty Ellis; Paul Ellis, son of Herman and Betty Ellis; Jason Hays, friend of Kevin Tucker; Jimmy and Nancy Higgins; Steve Hoffman, friend of Nancy Davis with cancer and transplant need; Dub Holt; Charles Jordan; Vicky, Becky, and Bruce Joyner and families due to loss of their mother; Ann Moss, mother of Debbie McConkie; Gene Murphy, father of Annette Sackhoff; Jenetta Murphy, mom of Annette Sackhoff; Elaine Williams, relative of Pat Denton.

PRAYERS OF MEDITATION:

PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying our debt, bearing our punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH SIN

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all our need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism, and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.



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