

THE OFFERTORY

*Forth He Came at Easter*

arr. David Williams

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
Wheat that is dark earth many days has lain:  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love whom men had slain,  
Thinking that never he would wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain.  
He that for three days in the grave had lain:  
Quick from the dead the risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

\*THE DOXOLOGY

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving / 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.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Congregational Hymn 245 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

Verse 1-3

522 *I Am the Bread of Life*

Prayer after Communion

\*HYMN 233 *The Day of Resurrection!*

\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*THE POSTLUDE

\*Indicates the People Standing

If standing is difficult, please remain seated. Larger print bulletins are available.

**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

*April First the Year of Our Lord*

*Two Thousand Eighteen*

*Easter Sunday*

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THE REFITTING OF THE SANCTUARY

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 114; Acts 10:34-43; I Corinthians 5:6b-8

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN 248 (Verse 1) *Hymn to Joy*

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, See, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding Bring a taste of love unknown.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: This is the Good News: the grave is empty,

Christ is risen!

**Congregants: Alleluia!**

Minister: This is the Good News: the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never put it out.

**Congregants: Alleluia!**

Minister: This is the Good News: once we were no people,  
now we are God's people!

**Congregants: Alleluia!**

Minister: Let us worship our Easter God.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**God of life and love, we gather to praise You,  
to thank You, and to declare Your mercy!**

**In days of despair and fear and hopelessness,  
we have scattered in darkness and grief and death.**

**But in the resurrection, You have come to us  
and gathered us to feast with joy!**

**We have been buried in sin, lifeless, without hope,  
but You have raised us, with love stronger than death.  
As we come now before Your throne of grace,  
let us celebrate our deliverance and direction,  
for we find on this day in Christ's risen Spirit  
a new beginning and a holy work to do.  
Through the Risen Lord we pray. Amen.**

\* HYMN 232      *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

\* LITANY OF CONFESSION (responsive)

Minister: O God, our plans and priorities  
do not always make space for Your interruptions.

**Congregants: Have mercy on us.**

Minister: We are accustomed to death and disappointment,  
we are well acquainted with cynicism and disillusionment.

**Congregants: Have mercy on us.**

Minister: We are slow to believe Your Good News,  
we are scarred by false hopes.

**Congregants: Grant us Your peace.**

Minister: We confess our lack of trust, our limited vision,  
our uneasy comfort with spitefulness,  
our apathy to injustice.

**Congregants: We believe. Help our unbelief.**

Minister: Yet despite our sins and our failings,  
You have created us for relationship with You,  
You have created us for resurrection life,  
You have created us to live Your Easter Good News.

**Congregants: Forgive us, O God, and help us to live  
as a people shaped by Your voice, Your hope, Your reign.**

Minister: Hear these our silent prayers.  
(Worshippers will share their private prayers with God.)

\*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

Minister: Jesus our Christ has come to our world  
of sorrow and sin, of sickness and death.  
He comes to us who need him, to the broken and lost,  
he has borne our burdens, he has carried our sorrows.  
In him, we find our forgiveness and salvation.  
Believe and rejoice in what he has accomplished.  
By his wounds we are healed,  
and death no longer has dominion!

**Congregants: Alleluia! Praise be to God!**

\* RESPONSE Hymn 236 (Verse 1)      *The Strife is O'er*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. The strife is o'er, the battle done, The victory of life is won; The  
song of triumph has begun. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

THE FIRST LESSON      Isaiah 25:6-9

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. <sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; <sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. <sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM      *God's Right Hand and Holy Arm*      K. Lee Scott      (Insert)

THE SECOND LESSON      John 20:1-18 (Insert)

THE SERMON      "Easter Faith In A Good Friday World"      Dr. Russ Merritt

\*HYMN 277      *Hail Thee, Festival Day!*      (Verses 1-4)

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison selections from scripture)

**This is the good news which we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold fast:  
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,  
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,  
and that he appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.  
We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end.  
He is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

ANTHEM      *God's Right Hand and Holy Arm*      K. Lee Scott

Refrain: God's right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

Christ being raised from the dead shall die no more. Death has no power over Him; He lives to God. (Refrain)

Why seek the living now among the dead? Recall His promise unto you; He lives again. (Refrain)

Gone is death's victory, gone is death's sting, God gives to us the victory through Christ our Lord. (Refrain)

Christ being raised from the dead shall die no more. Death has no power over Him; He lives to God. (Refrain)

THE SECOND LESSON      Second Lesson      John 20:1-18

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Minister: May God's Spirit bless us richly as we hear this reading, for this is indeed the Word of God!

**Congregants: Thanks be to God.**

*Ushers*

*Matt and Susan Graybill, Jyke Jones, Bob Newman*

*Communion Servers*

*Emily Allen, Greg and Margie Cundiff, Barry and Judy Ferrell*

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3911 Greenland Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24012-3250

WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, Transitional Minister

Melissa Hudson, Music Director

Susie Tallmage, Secretary

Lauren Godsey, Nursery Attendant

**Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.**

**Members**

Bobby Brammer

Betty Dixon

Michael Hambrick

Jake Hayes

Betty Hinkle

Lois Hopkins

Rose Howard

Jim Maile

Floyd Moretz

Jenny Nabywaniec

Ann Pace

Mac Pace

Buddy Smith

Sandy Smith

Frances Stevens

Jo Ann Threlkeld

George Wingeier

Holly Woodson

Shirley Wynn

**Friends and Family**

Mike Duckworth-(Holly Woodson's brother-in-law)

Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)

**\*THE SESSION \***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Class of 2018: Dana Esworthy, Barry Ferrell, Jyke Jones, Stan Lanford, Ann Pace

Class of 2019: Margie Cundiff, John Kabana, Allen Kling, Sarah Plymale, Holly Woodson

Class of 2020: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Lynn Kirby, Bob Newman, Dave Snider

10:30 am

Summer Worship