

**Easter Sunday Worship on March 31, 2024** (CCLI: License Number #3156883)  
(Welcoming Elder: Edwin Webster)

**Easter Sunday Order of worship**

**We Gather**

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 255 Now let the vault of heaven resound
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song – BOP 243 Jesus Christ is risen today
- Time for our children

**We Listen**

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: Acts 10:34-43
- Second reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (refrain 1)
- Third reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Sermon: So you have come to believe
- Hymn BOP 558 The Son of God proclaim
- Communion with the Apostle's Creed

**We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 258 Thine be the glory

**We Serve**

- Benediction

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As we come into the presence of our God, let us open our hearts and minds,  
and focus on our Lord and King.

**Responsive Call to Worship**

O Day of Resurrection, we lift our hearts with joy!

**Christ has led us from death to life. Hallelujah!**

O Day of Resurrection, we will rejoice with hope!

**Christ has led us from earth to heaven. Hallelujah!**

Christ is risen from the dead. Hallelujah!

**Hallelujah! He is risen indeed.**

**Praise song – BOP 255 Now let the vault of heaven resound**

**Prayer For Adoration and Confession**

God of Resurrecting power, you lift our hearts with joy when we see the tomb is empty.

God of Resurrecting hope, you fill us with excitement when we hear that Christ is risen.

God of Resurrecting love, you embrace us with courage when we trust in the power of new life  
that you promise in the Risen Christ.

We offer you all glory, honour and, praise with hearts overflowing in Jesus' name.

God of Resurrecting joy, we confess that it's not easy to sustain Easter hope. We let discouragement, fear and frustration to settle in and we let anger and anxiety turn our hearts away from you. Resentment and disappointment cling to us and we forget your great mercy and love. Forgive us, God. Restore within us the joy and hope you promise us in Christ, our Risen Lord.

**This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray:** (The Lord's Prayer:)  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ –  
And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.  
Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free for new life by God's resurrecting grace.

**May the Peace of the Lord be with you.** Let us take few moments to greet each other and share our peace.

### **Praise song – BOP 243 Jesus Christ is risen today**

### **Prayer for children**

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

Spirit of resurrecting Truth, roll away any assumptions that block our understanding of the Easter story. Open our minds and hearts to receive the Good News that Christ is risen indeed. Change our lives with this gift. Alleluia! We praise you. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

- First reading: Acts 10:34-43
- Second reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (refrain 1)
- Third reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

### **“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”**

### **SERMON: So you have come to believe**

Today's sermon title is **“So you have come to believe”**

On this Easter Sunday, as we gather together as a community of faith, we are reminded of the foundational truth that lies at the heart of our Christian journey. It is the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is risen!

Let us share Easter joy. Happy Easter!

Today, we turn our hearts and minds to today's passage, where the apostle Paul beautifully articulates the essence of our faith and the transformative power of the resurrection. So let us take a look into this passage together under the title: "So You Have Come to Believe."

The gospel is the foundation of our faith. What is the gospel? Paul begins by reminding the Corinthians and us today of the Gospel that was preached and taught to them and to us. This Gospel is not a mere human philosophy BUT a divine revelation – **the message of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection**. It is a message that transcends time and space, offering hope and salvation to all who believe. As Presbyterians, we hold fast to the truth of the Gospel as our foundation of faith. Among the message of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, death and burial are easy to believe. When someone dies, we bury them. Common sense. But, the last one, resurrection sounds like fairy tale. We've never heard of it nor we experienced it. Paul lists the people who eye-witnessed the risen Jesus. Peter, twelve disciples, 500 brothers and sisters. And some of them were still living at the time Paul wrote this letter.

Belief in the resurrection is not merely a passive acknowledgement but an active commitment to live out its truth in our daily lives.

Jesus claims that I made you clean. I washed your sin. I opened the door to the Father, so that you can restore the broken relationship with God. I saved you. I gave you life.

So, every human being is standing in front of the decision.

No one can just say, "Okay Jesus is alive. That's fine with me. What's that to do with me?!" Everyone has to choose whether we accept it or not.

Paul emphasizes the importance of standing firm in our faith. Hold fast to the message we have received. There are proof, witnesses. The gospel, the message of the resurrection was preached by many witnesses. That's why we have come to believe. Because of their witnessing testimonies, teaching the gospel, and sharing what they experienced, the truth handed down to us. This is how we came to faith. By their living out their faith of resurrection, we are here in faith.

Our belief in this resurrection has shaped who we are. Our true identity is followers of the Risen Christ. And this belief becomes our guide, wisdom, and power of our actions as we live out our faith in the world and as we testify our faith to the world.

Paul's life was an example of the transformative power of the resurrection. In the past, he was a persecutor of the church. Christ appeared to him and called him to be an apostle. This encounter changed the direction of Paul's life. Paul was a persecutor of the gospel, but he turned into a passionate preacher of the gospel. Paul's transformation is a powerful reminder for us that resurrection is not just a historical event but a living reality that continues to impact lives today.

As we reflect on Paul's life-changing-experience, let us consider how the resurrection has transformed our own lives. How has encountering the risen Jesus changed our perspectives, priorities, and passions? How has it empowered us to live boldly for the sake of the gospel?

As Jesus followers, we are called to be a resurrection people, or Easter people. Different people use different terms. It means a community of faith who bears witness to the transformative power of Christ's resurrection in our midst.

Our belief in the resurrection compels us to proclaim the message of the Gospel to all who will listen, inviting them into the life-transforming love of Christ. It also challenges us to embody the values of the kingdom. Justice, mercy, love, acceptance, and humility. These values should be displayed in our relationships and interactions with others.

As we celebrate Easter, let us re-commit ourselves to living as Easter people or resurrection people, boldly proclaiming the Good News and extending God's grace to our surroundings.

As I conclude the message today, let us take to heart the words of the apostle Paul.

**1 Corinthians 15:11, “Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.”** Let us hold fast to the message of the Gospel, standing firm in our faith and living in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in this world which needs hope and healing. May the reality of Christ's resurrection continue to transform our lives and empower us to be the vehicles of God's love and grace in this world.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

### **Hymn BOP 558 The Son of God proclaim**

**Communion At The Lord's Table** This is the time for Communion at the Lord's Table.

On this joyous Easter morning, let us come together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us gather around the table of grace, remembering the sacrifice made for us and rejoicing in the new life found in Christ. Let us join our hearts and voices in praise and thanksgiving as we partake of this holy communion. As we join the Lord's Table, let us confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

### **The Apostles' Creed (BOP 539)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**  
**Amen.**

*(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) (Please say BOLD print together)*

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: It is our joy and privilege to praise and worship you. Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, we gather before you with hearts full of gratitude and praise. As we commemorate the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, we are reminded of your boundless love for us and the victory over sin and death that he achieved on the cross. We give thanks for the gift of your Son, who willingly laid down his life for our salvation. Through his death and resurrection, he has opened to us the way of eternal life. With this life, with the cloud of witnesses, **we lift our hearts in joyful praise:**

**(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: Holy are you, Eternal One. Jesus, you are the Messiah, Son of the Living God. You are life. You are power. You are truth. You are the way. You are love. You are Light. You are righteousness. You are grace. You are our eternal King. You are victory. You are our all in all. Live in us. Live in the centre of our hearts. Because we live with your life through your resurrection, **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

**P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

L: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may be made one body with him, united in his resurrection and empowered to serve you in the world. Through Christ, by Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE – prepare your Bread and Wine**

“This is the **body** of Christ, broken for you.” (BREAD)

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us take it)

“This is the **blood** of Christ, poured out for you.” (CUP)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us drink it)

**Prayer after Communion:**

God of love and grace, thank you for the hope we have in you. Thank you for giving us your one and only Son Jesus Christ to the cross to take away all our sin. We can never repay the debt of love we owe to you. Here, Lord, we give ourselves away for you because this is all that we can do. Glorious and loving and merciful God, receive our worship. Accept us.

This is a great day of joy to celebrate our life! Risen Christ trampled and crushed the power of death and sin. Hallelujah! Hallelujah Lord. All the praise and glory to you! We want to pour our hearts to you and lift your name in our worship.

As we continue to gather and worship you here at St. Andrew’s, God fill our hearts with joy and love and mercy. Let us gather our hearts together and love and pray for each other.

There are some prayer needs. Listen to our prayers and grant our prayers. Where there is need of healing and recovering of health, be with them and heal them. Where there is need of encouragement and hope, fill their hearts and minds. Re-direct their thoughts. Let them focus on you and your love and the joy you are pouring out upon us. Where there is struggle and frustration, Prince of Peace, come and take the centre place. We focus on the treasure you have. We want to pursue the true treasure. Help us and strengthen us, so that we can stand strong in our daily lives.

Let the resurrection hope fill us all the days of our lives. Be glorified. In Jesus’ precious and beautiful name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:** Easter Day celebrates God’s most precious gift to us in Christ’s dying and his rising. As we present our gifts this morning, may our generosity reflect God’s

goodness to us, and the hope we have in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord. Let us praise God and glorify him with the Doxology (BOP #830.)

**Offering prayer:**

God of Resurrecting Grace, we offer our gifts with grateful hearts, recognizing how much you have given us in Christ, and what that gift has cost. Empower these gifts to spread the hope and joy we feel today in the world you love, in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 258 Thine be the glory**

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith. Let hold fast to our faith. And like Paul, let us spread the good news. May God be with you and empower you so the joy of our salvation displayed in our daily lives. Let the joy and gladness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ be overflowing to our surroundings.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.