

ST. ANDREW

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Worship Bulletin

Sunday, March 31st, 2024

Easter

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed!

Call to Worship

Liturgist, David Pugh

Leader: Where shattered hearts are made whole,
where wounded souls are healed,
where life is stronger than death:

People: there, the stone has been rolled away.

Leader: Where the lonely become our friends,
where a stranger is welcomed home,
where hope is stronger than despair,

People: there, we find Jesus walking.

Leader: Where clenched fists are opened,
where the anxious find serenity,
where love is stronger than hate:

People: there, Jesus is opening our eyes.

Leader: The stone has been rolled away!
Jesus is our companion on the journey!
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed!

Opening Prayer

Hymn #232 – *Jesus Christ is Risen Today

**John Elvig, Trumpet
Larry Baker, Trumpet**

Prayer of Confession

Most loving God, among us there are many shades of both strength and need.
We are a people of much knowledge who lack wisdom,
a people of many possessions who lack fulfillment,
a people of abundant technology who lack hope,
a people of pleasures who lack contentment,
a people of many comforts who lack peace,
a people of much pride who lack dignity,
a people of ideals who lack vigor,
a people of belief who lack faith,
a people of faith who lack love.
Gracious God, cleanse our grubby motives,
refresh that which is stagnant,
and invigorate everything that shows promise in your eyes.

(Time for silent prayer and confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Passing the Peace

Leader: God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.
God makes peace between us. Let us share it.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

(Please share signs of peace with each other)

Anthem

Risen Today!
arr. Lloyd Larson

St. Andrew Choir

A Word for God's Children

Mindy Heimer

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture – John 20:1-18

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. 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.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 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.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). 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." ' 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol

A Moment for Silent Reflection

Hymn #246 – *Christ is Alive

***Affirmation of Faith**

Have you ever noticed that it is the space that holds everything we believe
it is the gap
the void
in which we place everything we fundamentally believe?

in that space,
the emptiness
of tombs,
lies the fullness of our faith

and in such spaces,
we believe

when the void is found
the emptiness of the tomb is met
it is then we trust resurrection
and that what Jesus said is true
we remember what he told us
and believe

it's kind of obvious that you need
an empty tomb for resurrection
but you need that emptiness
to have a full faith
filled with hope
and possibility
and what might be

so we step into this emptiness
and believe that
the life Jesus lived might be true
the love he held to might be true
the words he spoke might be true

(Affirmation of Faith continues on next page)

**because there is only space
where death ought to be**

**this possibility of life
this resurrection of spirit
in every empty space
is our new hope
God, we commit ourselves to go and believe into the void, Amen.**

Offering our Gifts and Gratitude

***Song of Dedication #609 - *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our loving God, who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!

Hymn #238 – *Thine Is the Glory

**John Elvig, Trumpet
Larry Baker, Trumpet**

Benediction

Postlude

The Call to Worship is by Thom Shuman of Lectionary Liturgies, the Opening Prayer is by Cheryl Lawrie at [hold this space], the Prayer of Confession is by Bruce Prewer of the Uniting Church of Australia, and the Affirmation of Faith is by Roddy Hamilton.

St. Andrew At-A-Glance

- **April 1** - Church Office Closed for Easter Monday
- **April 3** - Noon Prayer Service
- **April 4** - Women's Craft Fellowship
- **April 6** - Spring Cleanup Day
- **April 7** - Hybrid Worship, Communion, Nursery, Choir Rehearsal, Adult Education, Kids' Sunday School, Communion Served to Homebound, Youth Lunch, Holy Yoga
- **April 8** - Fellowship Book Group
- **April 10** - Noon Prayer Service
- **April 11** - Serve Dinner to Unhoused Guests with Community Table
- **April 13** - Men's Pancake Breakfast
- **April 14** - Hybrid Worship - Earth Day Sunday, Nursery, Choir Rehearsal, Adult Education, Kids' Sunday School, Holy Yoga

Worship Leaders

Pastor

The Rev. Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol
Jacqueline@StAndrewBoulder.org

Director of Christian Education

Mindy Heimer
Mindy@StAndrewBoulder.org

Music Director

Dr. Chad Clark
Chad@StAndrewBoulder.org

Organist

Joshua Yuen-Schat
Josh@StAndrewBoulder.org

Office Administrator

Savannah Morton
Office@StAndrewBoulder.org

Sexton

Basil Miller
Basil@StAndrewBoulder.org

Sound Team

Joe Cunningham, Gene Harano, John Irons,
Basil Miller, Steve Niessner

Zoom Techs

Evaristo Ramirez-Aguilar,
Max Bedell, Hunter Bellegante

New Here?

As most people in Colorado are aware, aspen trees aren't individual trees but are connected underground by a complex root system. Given how many trees can be connected, these petite, beautiful trees can join together into mighty organisms. In fact, the largest organism in the world is a single Quaking Aspen in Utah. When we're at our best, the church functions in much the same way: we are connected, and we come together to be nourished, fed, and refreshed even though we live our lives in distinct places. We recognize that our life "above the soil" is only possible when we tend to our life "below the soil," and we realize that without the trunk and branches, the roots don't really serve much of a purpose. Our life of faith is most robust when we balance both dimensions: the interconnectedness that helps nourish our roots and the expression of faith that only comes through wide-reaching branches. That's the kind of worship and service we nurture.



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