

Easter Sunday Worship  
Stone House Presbyterian Church  
Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am

Welcome

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer from:  
*Stages on the Way* by the Wild Goose Worship Group

Prayers of the People and Sending and Blessing from  
Jill Duffield at the Presbyterian Outlook

Call to Worship

One: This is the Good News-  
The grave is empty.  
Christ is risen.

**ALL: HALLELUJAH!**

One: This is the Good News-  
The Light shines in the darkness,  
And the darkness can never put it out.

**ALL: HALLELUJAH!**

One: This is the Good News-  
Once we were no people,  
Now we are God's people.

**ALL: HALLELUJAH!**

Opening Prayer:

Lord God, early in the morning  
when the world was young  
you made life in all its beauty and terror,  
you gave birth to all that we know.

Hallowed be your name.  
**HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.**

Early in the morning,  
when the world least expected it,  
a newborn child crying in a cradle  
announced that you had come among us,

that you were one of us.

Hallowed be your name.

**HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.**

Early in the morning,  
surrounded by respectable liars,  
religious leaders,  
anxious statesmen,  
and silent friends,  
you accepted the penalty for doing good,  
for being God:  
you shouldered and suffered the cross.

Hallowed be your name.

**HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.**

Early in the morning  
a voice in a guarded graveyard  
and footsteps in the dew  
proved that you had risen,  
that you came back  
to those and for those  
who had forgotten, denied and destroyed you.

Hallowed be your name.

**HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.**

Early in the morning,  
In the multicolored company  
of your Church on earth and in heaven  
we celebrate:

    your creation,  
    your life,  
    your death,  
    and your resurrection.

So to you we pray this prayer of confession and eternal hope:

Unison Prayer of Confession:

**RISEN SAVIOR,  
 YOU BROKE THE POWER OF THE GRAVE.  
 YOU BROKE THE POWER OF SIN.  
 YOU BROKE THE POWER OF DEATH.  
 AS WE CELEBRATE YOUR TRIUMPH,  
 MAY WE ALSO FOLLOW YOU WITH OUR LIVES.**

**FORGIVE US FOR ALL THE WAYS  
 WE HAVE MISSED THE FULLNESS OF LIFE  
 RESURRECT IN US  
 JOY AND FELLOWSHIP  
 SERVICE AND JUSTICE  
 GRACE AND LOVE.  
 MAY OUR SPIRITS BE FILLED ALWAYS  
 WITH THE HOPE OF ABUNDANT LIFE.**

*(Silent Confession)*

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news:  
 The grave is empty and Christ is risen!  
 The light shines in the darkness  
 And the darkness will never put it out.  
 In Christ's resurrection,  
 We are forgiven and welcomed into the Kingdom of God.  
 Amen!

Unison Response:

**GOODNESS IS STRONGER THAN EVIL (hold out hands)  
 LOVE IS STRONGER THAN HATE; (hug)  
 LIGHT IS STRONGER THAN DARKNESS; (point up)  
 LIFE IS STRONGER THAN DEATH; (pump fists in air)  
 VICTORY IS OURS, VICTORY IS OURS (make "V" with hands)  
 THROUGH GOD WHO LOVES US. (point up to God and hug)  
 VICTORY IS OURS, VICTORY IS OURS (make "V" with hands)  
 THROUGH GOD WHO LOVES US. (point up to God and hug)**

## Children's Message

Story: "Mary Finds Her Friend"

Song: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Invitation to Color Alleluia Sheet and Mail it in to Church

## First Scripture Reading

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-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow,  
of well-aged 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.*

## Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1-9

<sup>1</sup>*After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.*

*<sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.<sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you.*

*"<sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.*

Easter Message: "How the Coronavirus Stole Easter"  
Rev. Alex Creager

### Prayers of the People

Almighty God, your promises are sure, your love unrelenting, your power unmatched. We bow before you, humbled by your grace, awed by your mercy, rejoicing in your kindness.

You suffered and died to forgive us. You became incarnate to show us God's love for us. You healed and fed, taught and preached, prayed and ate with sinners to show us God's will for us. You went to the tomb and were raised from the dead to defeat evil and bring life eternal for the sake of the world.

You call us by name, Lord of all. Hearing our weeping, you refuse to leave us alone in our grief. Trusting your compassion, we share our deepest hopes and our greatest fears.

We lift up to your light those crying in the night. We give thanks for those who have fallen ill and then recovered. Comfort the many who mourn, families unable to hold funerals, doctors and nurses confronted constantly with death, people longing to touch those isolated by this pandemic.

We remember your call to care for the least of these and ask that you would give us the wisdom to serve in ways that show your

love for all people. When we cannot physically be present, send your Spirit as we send our notes, make our calls and do all we can to visit those in prison, house those without shelter and heal the sick.

Help us to feed those who hunger physically, spiritually or emotionally. May your body, the Church, be united in our caring, radical in our generosity, and stalwart in our advocacy. Grant us courage for the living of these days.

On this day of resurrection, filled with fear and joy, we worship, we sing, we weep, we give thanks, and most of all, we marvel at your unwillingness to leave us to the consequences of our actions, your tenacious desire to be in relationship with us and your amazing grace through which you have saved us.

We make our prayer in the name of the one who taught us to say when we pray,

#### 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 SINS,  
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SINNED AGAINST US.  
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,  
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL,  
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM,  
AND THE POWER,  
AND THE GLORY FOREVER.  
AMEN.**

## Offering

Online Giving: [shpchurch.org/give](http://shpchurch.org/give)

One Great Hour of Sharing

## Sending and Blessing

Go and tell what you have seen and know:

Jesus Christ is risen!

**HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

The tomb stands empty!

**HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

Go and tell the good news!

**HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you now and remain with you always.  
Amen.