

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP

- It was still dark when Mary went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away.
- God, help us to also see the stone that has been rolled away.
- Soon others come to the tomb so that they might look inside.
- God, help us to see an empty tomb when we look inside today.
- The disciple who reached the tomb went inside, saw the empty tomb and believed.
- God, help us to believe.
- Jesus came to Mary, calling her by name.
- God, help us hear our names being called today.
- Mary announced to others, "I have seen the Lord."
- God, help us to see you and share with others what we have seen.
- For He is not here, He is risen!
- God, Hallelujah! He is risen indeed.

HYMN

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!*

INVOCATION

Almighty God, we join you in joy this morning to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. May your love inspire us during this sacred time, as we experience the promise of the resurrection. Fill us with thanksgiving at the gift of new life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18

MEDITATION

"The Stone is Rolled Away"
(See Insert for Meditation)

HYMN

"He Lives"

*I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.*

Refrain

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.*

*In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And tho' my heart grows weary I never will despair;
I know that He is leading thro' all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing will come at last.*
Refrain

PASTORAL PRAYER

Living God, this day you created one of your greatest miracles. The stone is rolled away and Christ is risen. Death is not the end! Just as you have resurrected your Son from death, we pray that you will also resurrect our lives, meet us in our anxiety and resurrect us to peace. Meet us in our despair and resurrect us to hopefulness. Meet us in our wanting to quit and resurrect us to the place where we want to go on. Meet us in our loneliness and resurrect us to community. Take what is dead in us and around us and make it new once more. Thank you for walking the road of life with us, Lord Jesus. Continue to open our minds and hearts to experience your presence, to know your wisdom, and to see your grace at work. We pray through the power of your holy spirit. Amen.

COMMUNION

HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

*Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;*

(over)

Refrain

*When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.:*

Refrain

**CALL TO
COMMUNION**

As we come to communion in the comfort of our home, may the bread which is broken bring life to us.
May the holy cup, poured out for all, be our salvation.

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

O God, thank you for inviting us to your dinner table, to this foretaste of heaven.
O Jesus Christ, host at this table, we bring to you our hungers for love, forgiveness, healing and wholeness.
Holy Spirit, you alone can weave us together in the body of Christ and move us closer to God and to each other.
O God, and Lord Jesus, and Holy Spirit, we come to the table knowing you stand ready to embrace us.

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion
(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

On the night He was betrayed Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body that is broken for you. Take, eat and do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it often in remembrance of me"

OFFERING

Share your church offering and Easter offering with the church by mail.
Thank you for your love gifts.

**PRAYER FOR
OFFERING**

Thank you, Lord, for all you have given to us. You have given us food and we are full. You have given us our home and we are comfortable. Receive now the gifts we offer back to you. Use them to satisfy hunger and provide shelter for those in need. Amen.

BENEDICTION

He is risen! We do not have to fear death. He is risen! We do not have to be afraid of the past. He is risen! We do not have to be afraid of the dark. He is risen! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Valley Christian Church

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

