



# Gathered together to worship God

# Announcements

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

## “They crucified my Savior”

1. They crucified my Savior and nailed him to the cross. (3x)  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.  
*refrain:* He arose, he arose, he arose from the dead! (3x)  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.
2. Joseph begged his body and laid it in the tomb. (3x)  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.  
*refrain:* He arose, he arose, he arose from the dead! (3x)  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.
3. Mary, she came running, a-looking for my Lord. (3x)  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.  
*refrain:* He arose, he arose, he arose from the dead! (3x)  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.
4. An angel came from heaven and rolled the stone away. (3x)  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.  
*refrain:* He arose, he arose, he arose from the dead! (3x)  
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.

Prelude

Hymnal #266  
an African-American spiritual

# Easter Antiphon

(taken from Psalm 118)

Please rise in body or spirit and join in the “Easter Antiphon” found on the back of your bulletin...

Leader: Let us affirm our faith in the Risen Lord through scripture and song.

Women: The Lord is my strength and my song.  
The Lord has become my salvation.

(Hymnal #337, vs. 1)

Ask ye what great thing I know that delights and stirs me so?  
What the high reward I win? Whose the name I glory in?  
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

Men: The Lord's right hand is lifted high.  
The Lord's right hand has done mighty things.

(Hymnal #337, vs.1)

Blessed Savior, we adore thee, we thy love & grace proclaim.  
Thou art mighty, thou art holy, glorious is thy matchless name!  
Glorious is thy name, O Lord! (3x)

Women: He will not die but live.  
Let us proclaim what the Lord has done.

(Hymnal #337, vs. 1)

I will sing of my Redeemer, and his wondrous love to me;  
on the cruel cross he suffered, from the curse to set me free.  
Sing, oh sing, of my Redeemer, with his blood, he purchased me,  
on the cross, he sealed my pardon, paid the debt, & made me free.

Men: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone. The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

(Hymnal #337, vs. 1)

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

“Rejoice, the Lord is King” (Hymnal #288)

1. Rejoice, the Lord is king! Your Lord and King adore!  
Mortals, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your  
voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
2. Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love.  
When he had purged our stains he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your  
voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
- 3 His kingdom cannot fail, he rules over earth and heaven.  
The keys of death and hell to Jesus now are given.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your  
voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
4. Rejoice in glorious hope, Jesus the judge shall come  
and take his servants up to their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice,  
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

# Opening Prayer

Very early on that first day  
you caught chaos unawares,  
Astounding God:  
planting grace in a garden,  
setting love loose on creation,  
flinging joy into the air.

Very early on that first day  
Jesus, Son of Justice:  
you staggered sin,  
throwing its weight off the world;  
you confounded death,  
leaving it alone in the grave;  
you opened the gates of the kingdom,  
so all could follow you into life.

Very early on this first day of the week,  
while we were washing sleep from our eyes  
and trying to make sense of our lives,  
you sang glad songs to us,  
Scarred Spirit:  
rolling away fears from our hearts  
so we can see the Risen Lord.

God in Community, Holy in One,  
on this first day of the week,  
as we do on every day of our lives,  
we lift our prayers as Jesus has taught us,

(The Lord's Prayer)

*(shift ppt)*

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
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,  
the power and the glory forever. AMEN

written by Rev. Thom M. Shuman,  
currently interim Pastor at  
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.  
from: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Please be seated.

# Affirming our faith

Hymnal #714

Let's join our voices now with words that affirm what we know of the One who is at the center of the Gospel. You will find it in the back of your hymnal, #714, as well as upon the screen. Half of the lines are in regular print - those will be read by you who sit on the left side (your left) of the sanctuary. I will read with you. Those on the right side (your right), will speak the words indented and in bold print. Together, we will speak our faith. Let's begin.

*(forward ppt to the first slide below)*

He was the Son of God.

**He was the Son of Man.**

He came down from heaven.

**He was born in a stable.**

Kings came to his cradle.

**His first home was a cave.**

He was born to be a king.

**He was a child of Mary.**

*(shift ppt)*

He was the greatest among rulers.

**He was the least among servants.**

He was loved and honored.

**He was despised and rejected.**

He was gentle and loving.

**He made many enemies.**

*(shift ppt)*

He counseled perfection.

**He was a friend of sinners.**

He was a joyful companion.

**He was a man of sorrows.**

He said, "Rejoice."

**He said, "Repent."**

*(shift ppt)*

"Love God with all your heart."

**"Love your neighbor as yourself."**

"Don't be anxious."

**"Count the cost."**

"Deny yourself."

**"Ask and receive."**

*(shift ppt)*

In him was life.

**He died on a cross.**

He was a historic person.

**He lives today.**

He was Jesus of Nazareth.

**He is Christ the Lord.**

Hymnal #714

adapted from *We Gather Together*, Kenneth I. Morse,

©1979 Brethren Press.

Response

**"Jesus loves me"**

Jesus loves me! this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes, Jesus loves me;

the Bible tells me so.

Hymnal #341

words by Anna B. Warner, 1859

music by William B. Bradbury, 1862

# Our Tithes and Offerings

P - Jesus once said, *“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”* (Matthew 7:7-8\*)

M - A familiar Easter activity for children of all ages is the “hide and seek” of special eggs. It’s fun to prepare, a joy in which adults can participate and relive younger years. And who is this “Easter Bunny” who places the eggs in interesting locations for little ones to find? Might you recognize him or her if you caught a glimpse?

*(if there are children:)*

M - There are some eggs hidden in the front of our sanctuary. I see some children who might be interested in searching for and finding them. So, let me ask if you’d like to join me now to discover where they might be and what we might learn through them.

*(M quietly welcomes children up front to find eggs during the Offertory, while P continues. If there are no children, P & M read alternating paragraphs of the rest)*

P - I can hear some old folks saying in their heads, “Worship is not a place for Easter Bunnies,” and they would be right ... to a point. But seeking and finding, asking and receiving, and knocking and having doors opened is part of the gospel. In fact, the surprise of the real Easter can be lost on us if we don’t look intently, lift up our questions, and ring heaven’s doorbell for it. I hope that’s one reason you are here today.

P <sub>(or M)</sub> - Remember the woman in Jesus’ parable who swept her house clean searching for a lost coin? That story flows in so

many directions, one being that here is a picture of God seeking us – like that woman, or like a child hunting for an egg. God will not rest until we are found. The giving of our tithes and offerings flows out of this sense of God reaching out to us first, knocking on our doors seeking entrance. When the Lord enters, we seek to share the best of what we have for our holy guest.

P - As you place your gift in the plate (and as the children seek and find), imagine gratefully being a good host to God our guest. “Here, Lord, may you be welcome in my home and heart.” Ushers, help us to do this...

\* from the New Revised Standard Version Bible,  
copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the  
National Council of the Churches of Christ  
in the United States of America.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## Offertory

# The story in an eggshell

The Easter Story in twelve plastic eggs

## Egg 1: The Bread

As they were eating dinner Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave some to the Disciples saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body."

## Egg 2: The Coins

Judas went to the chief priest, asking them how much money would you pay me to betray Jesus? They counted out thirty silver coins and paid him to hand over Jesus to them.

## Egg 3: The Whip

Jesus was whipped by the soldiers after Pilate sentenced him to death.

## Egg 4: Purple Cloth

The soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace, and they stripped off his clothes and dressed him in a purple robe to mock him.

## Egg 5: The Thorny Crown

They made thorn branches into a crown and placed a stick in his hand as a staff and knelt before him...making fun of him saying, "Hail, King of the Jews."

## Egg 6: The Cross

Carrying his own cross, he had to walk to where he would be crucified.

## Egg 7: The Nails

The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross

## Egg 8: The Dice

The soldiers divided Jesus' clothes among them. With the robe still left, they rolled dice to see whom would get the robe.

## Egg 9: The Sponge

While hanging on the cross, Jesus was offered sour wine on a sponge.

## Egg 10: The Piercing of Jesus' side

After Jesus was dead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a sword and it rushed blood and water.

## Egg 11: The Rock

Jesus' body was wrapped in linen and placed in a tomb that was sealed with a rock

## Egg 12: The Empty Tomb

Three days later, the rock was rolled away. Jesus was not there, he was Risen.

as developed by Meghan Knight and Allison Funkhouser

Sharing a joy, a concern,  
a word of testimony or praise

# “Lord, listen to your children”

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Hymnal #353  
by Ken Medema  
Text and music copyright  
© 1973 Hope Publishing Co.

## Prayer

Our gracious, eternal God, we thank you again for another Easter day which reminds us of your victory over death and of our eternal hope.

We have many things for which to be grateful as we celebrate the resurrection.

We thank you for the living one, Jesus,  
who came to his huddled, fearful band  
and breathed new life into them.

We thank you for the fire  
which was kindled in them for faith.

We thank you for the hesitant, questioning manner  
they received the good news.

We thank you that you make room in your band  
for the uncertain and the doubters.

We thank you for the zeal  
with which they spread the good news.  
We thank you for the continuing reminders  
that you did not give up on them;  
and neither do you give up on us.

Teach us, O eternal one and guide us on our journey.  
Teach us the ability to trust.  
Teach us the ability to surrender our cares to you,  
knowing that you love us with an everlasting love.  
Teach us the ability to live confidently,  
to accept those times and moments  
when life is unclear or confused,  
and to trust that you lead us gently onward.

Resurrect the hopes of our world when its peoples fall into despair over war, continued unrest, conflict, and genocide in so many parts of the world. Swing low and melt the hearts and minds of people that we may change our behaviors. Give us all a greater and brighter vision of how things might be. Bring us peace. And yes, send us love, send us power, send us grace! Amen

by Rev. Richard Einerson ©2006, adapted  
from *Prayers of the People:*  
*Pastoral Prayers for Worship and Personal Devotion*



# John 20:1-18

- 1 - Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,
- 2 - Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
- 1 - So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,
- 2 - “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”
- 1 - Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together,
- 2 - 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.
- 1 - 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.
- 2 - 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.
- 1 - Then the disciples returned to their homes.
- 2 - 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.
- 1 - They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”
- 2 - She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

- 1 - When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,
- 2 - but she did not know that it was Jesus.
- 1 - Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”
- 2 - 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.”
- 1 - Jesus said to her, “Mary!”
- 2 - She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).
- 1 - 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.’”
- 2 - 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.

from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,  
copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the  
National Council of the Churches of Christ  
in the United States of America.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Message

“A fool’s errand?”

Hymn #280

## “Christ the Lord is risen today”

1. Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!  
All creation joins to say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high: Alleluia!  
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!
2. 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!
3. Lives again our glorious king, Alleluia!  
where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia!  
where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
following our exalted Head. Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!
5. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!  
everlasting life is this: Alleluia!  
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!  
thus to sing, and thus to love: Alleluia!

Hymnal #280  
words by Charles Wesley, 1739  
music is anonymous

## Benediction

- 1 - Remember, one last time, the story as we have received it today:  
*(pause)*
- 2 - “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”
  - 1 - “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”
  - 2 - “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”
  - 1 - “Mary!”
  - 2 - “Teacher!”  
*(pause)*
  - 1 - April Fools. Jesus is not dead.
  - 2 - He is alive.
  - 1 - He has risen from the grave.
  - 2 - And we rise with him.
  - 1 - So, don't hold back.
  - 2 - share the good news.
  - 1 - Go in peace!
  - 2 - Amen!

## Postlude