

**Sunday Worship - April 9, 2023**  
**Easter Sunday**



*He Qi, He Is Not Here*

*Narrative Lectionary Week 29 - Easter Sunday*  
*The Gospel of Matthew: The Women at the Tomb*

**First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa**

*“Striving to live as Jesus lived –  
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.”*

## Welcome to Worship

*\*Please stand if you are able*

*We begin in silence...*

### OPENING WORDS

All is quiet.

Only the birds are up to greet the new day.

All is quiet.

Yet, two women make their way slowly, with faltering steps,  
to the place where shattered dreams rest,  
along with the broken body of a man, deeply loved.

All is quiet as the two Marys console each other,  
and edge closer and closer to a tomb,  
in which the body of Jesus lies.

But then the silence is broken with a noise  
that is deafening and Earth-shattering—like an earthquake.

All is no longer quiet,  
the guards run a mile,  
fearful of what they are witnessing.

The silence is broken by the voice of an angel  
that speaks a promise;  
a promise that “He has risen from the dead”!

All is quiet no more.

Never again will the silence of the tomb be the final word.

The world from then, till now,  
and forever, is full of the ground-breaking noise  
of the angel’s words—

“He has risen from the dead”!

*~ from Spill the Beans, All-Age Reflection for Easter Sunday*

### EASTER ACCLAMATION

**L:** Friends, believe this good news! Christ is risen!

**P: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**\*HYMN #232 Jesus Christ is Risen Today**

*1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*

*3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*

*4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

### \*EASTER PRAYER

**L:** Christ our life, you are alive

**P: in the beauty of the earth**

**in the rhythm of the seasons**

**in the mystery of time and space**

**ALL: Alleluia!**

L: Christ our life, you are alive  
**P: in the tenderness of touch  
in the heartbeat of intimacy  
in the insights of solitude**  
**ALL: Alleluia!**

L: Christ our life, you are alive  
**P: in the creative possibility  
of the dullest conversation  
of the dreariest task  
the most threatening event**  
**ALL: Alleluia!**

L: Christ our life, you are alive  
**P: to offer re-creation  
to every unhealed hurt  
to every deadened place  
to every damaged heart**  
**ALL: Alleluia!**

L: You set before us a great choice.  
**P: Therefore we choose life.**  
**The dance of resurrection soars and surges  
through the whole creation,  
This is grace: dying we live.**  
**So let us live.**

~Kathy Galloway, found in *Resources for Preaching and Worship, Year C, "Easter"*

**\*RESPONSE #243 Be Not Afraid**  
*Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!*  
*Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!*

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: This is the Good News—the grave is empty, Christ is risen.  
**P: Hallelujah!**

L: This is the Good News—the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never put it out.

**P: Hallelujah!**

L: Christ is our peace,  
**P: the indestructible peace we now share with each other.**

L: The peace of Christ be with you.  
**P: And also with you.**

### **DISCOVERY TIME**

**ANTHEM**                      *Fanfare for Easter*

Althouse

## SCRIPTURE

L: In the beginning was the Word.

**P: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

L: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Matthew 28:1-10 (NRSV) - The Women at the Tomb

Reader 1: After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

Reader 2: But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 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.”

Reader 1: So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Reader 2: Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

HYMN #240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

*REFRAIN:*

*Alleluia, alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

*1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth.*

*He is the King of creation. REFRAIN*

*3 We have been crucified with Christ.*

*Now we shall live forever. REFRAIN*

*2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:*

*Jesus has died and has risen. REFRAIN*

*4 Come let us praise the living God,*

*Joyfully sing to our Savior. REFRAIN*

## SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Leader: There are many ways to offer ourselves, our resources, our lives to God and the way of God. We do so in response to God's abundant love and provision.

## OFFERTORY

~ Offerings may be placed in the basket located at the back of church or given online at [www.firstpresmv.com](http://www.firstpresmv.com)

## \*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #607 Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Let us pray together:

**All: Lord God, you have given us much from the stores of your love.**

**Your pockets are deep and you keep giving;**

**time after time we experience your gracious hand as it provides us with blessing after blessing.**

**In comparison we have little to give—or so we think.**

**Today, in making our offering,**

**we do so recognizing the immense cost of love revealed by the cross and empty tomb,**

**and we come with thankfulness for your gift to us.**

**May we be extravagantly generous in the commitments we make,**

**as we live our lives faithfully as your servants in the world. Amen.**

## \*HYMN #157 I Danced in the Morning

*1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

### REFRAIN:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

*2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.  
They came with me and the dance went on. REFRAIN*

*3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
and left me there on a cross to die. REFRAIN*

*4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
but I am the dance and I still go on. REFRAIN*

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*POSTLUDE

*All are welcome in the Social Hall (lower level) to enjoy coffee, juice, treats and conversation.*





*Easter flowers have been given in loving memory of*

Al & Becky's parents from Al & Becky Ahrens

Becky's sister from Al & Becky Ahrens

Lewis & Vonny Bishop (Elaine's parents) from Elaine Bishop

Mike & Beth Peterson (Kristi's parents) from Kristi & Matt Meyer

Peter & Hannah Bruce (Emily's grandparents) from Emily Walsh

Bernard & Agnes Fenchel (Jen's grandparents) from Jen Lengwin

Matthew Corey (Jen's childhood friend) from Jen Lengwin

William Wunder from Lori Wunder

Floyd & Lorene Robie (Lori's grandparents) from Lori Wunder

Roger Balmer from Lori Wunder