

**Sunday Worship - April 20, 2025**  
*Easter Sunday*

*Christ is risen!*  
*Christ is risen, indeed!*



*Alleluia!*

*Luke 24:1-12 - 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.

It is quiet, and it is early.

A group of women make their way with faltering steps,

to the place where shattered dreams rest,

along with the broken body of their teacher and friend, deeply loved.

The two Marys, Joanna, and the other women had prepared spices and ointments on Friday, after his body had been laid in the tomb.

After the Sabbath is over, they come to perform their final act of love, anointing Jesus' body and tucking spices into the burial cloths.

But as they near the tomb,

they are astonished to see the large stone rolled away.

They entered the tomb,

and were deeply troubled to find the tomb was empty.

Suddenly two young men, dressed in dazzling white, appeared next to them.

Now the women were terrified!

The young men said "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

He is not here, but has risen.

Remember how he told you what was to happen?"

Then the women did remember,

and bursting with excitement,

they rushed from the tomb to tell the others.

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

### EASTER ACCLAMATION

Leader: Friends, believe this good news! Christ is risen!

**ALL: 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**

Leader: Christ our life, you are alive

**ALL: in the beauty of the earth  
in the rhythm of the seasons  
in the mystery of time and space  
Alleluia!**

Leader: Christ our life, you are alive

**ALL: in the tenderness of touch  
in the heartbeat of intimacy  
in the insights of solitude  
Alleluia!**

Leader: Christ our life, you are alive

**ALL: in the creative possibility  
of the dulllest conversation  
of the dreariest task  
the most threatening event  
Alleluia!**

Leader: Christ our life, you are alive

**ALL: to offer re-creation  
to every unhealed hurt  
to every deadened place  
to every damaged heart  
Alleluia!**

Leader: You set before us a great choice.

**ALL: 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

Leader: This is the Good News—the grave is empty, Christ is risen.

**ALL: Hallelujah!**

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

**ALL: Hallelujah!**

Leader: Friends, Christ is our peace,

**ALL: and he desires that we share that peace with each other.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

## DISCOVERY TIME

### SCRIPTURE

Leader: In the beginning was the Word.

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

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

Luke 24:1-12 (Common English Bible) - The Women at the Tomb

**Reader 1:** ...on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body.

**Reader 2:** While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

**Reader 1:** Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

**Reader 2:** But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

**ALL: 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.*

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|--|---|
| 1. <i>Jesus is Lord of all the earth.<br/>He is the King of creation. REFRAIN</i>            | 3. <i>We have been crucified with Christ.<br/>Now we shall live forever. REFRAIN</i>  |
| 2. <i>Spread the good news o'er all the earth:<br/>Jesus has died and has risen. REFRAIN</i> | 4. <i>Come let us praise the living God,<br/>Joyfully sing to our Savior. REFRAIN</i> |

## 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.

~ 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 #70 What Does the Lord Require of You?

*Low Voices: What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?*

*Middle Voices: Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.*

*High Voices: To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.*

## \*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**

*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.*

- 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*
- 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**

Thank you to the following people for helping with our service this morning:

Pat Hogan, Piano  
Rehanna Rexroat, Violin  
Emily Fitzpatrick, Liturgist  
Scott Larson and Gerald Gerber, AV

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor  
Cristina Galán, Office Manager  
Nona Hutchinson, Treasurer  
Jeff Bray, Custodian