



## WELCOME TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS

### *EASTER SUNDAY*

### Sunday Morning Worship

April 4th, 2021 at 10:30 AM

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please watch our Facebook Page and our Website for announcements regarding upcoming Services or Meetings.

- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**In-Person Worship scheduled to resume on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**

Zoom and Facebook Live will still be available if you are uncomfortable coming to in-person worship.

Look for more information soon!

- **NEXT SUNDAY'S WORSHIP**

**We will be joining the Corning First Presbyterian Church for Worship at 10:30 a.m. on April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

We are welcome to join them for in-person worship at their Sanctuary or to join them on Facebook Live.

Their Facebook Live Service will be found on their Facebook page at this [link](#).

- **NOTE: PASTOR DENISE WILL NOT BE IN THE OFFICE THIS WEEK.**

Please call the church office (607-562-8048) and leave a message or send Pastor Denise an email

([pastordenisestone@gmail.com](mailto:pastordenisestone@gmail.com)) if you have a need or a prayer concern to pass on.





## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **WELCOME, JOYS AND CONCERNS:**

Please feel free to share your Joys and Concerns using the Chat Box feature of Zoom or by commenting on Facebook Live. Feel free to share your Joys and Concerns out loud with those gathered for Worship.

Due to the fact we are broadcasting our service, please avoid the use of specific names in your requests.

***As a reminder, everyone on Zoom will be muted during the service. If you wish to share your joys or concerns, you will need to unmute yourself and then mute yourself again when you have finished sharing.***

**PRELUDE**      *Easter Song*

### **GREETING**

Early on the first day of the week, the disciples of Jesus went to the tomb where he had been buried only to find that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Friends, we gather here as Christ's disciples, on the first day of the week, to celebrate the good news of the gospel: Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beloved church, behold the victory of our God: Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

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

Sin and death shall reign no more.

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

Let this place resound with joy.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Alleluia! We praise you, O God, for the power of your saving love revealed in the resurrection of our Lord. We await with gladness your new heaven and new earth. As you have raised Jesus from the dead give to us the gift of everlasting life, that we may worship you forever; through Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**      *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!  
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!  
Sing, O 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!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Jesus died, our souls to save; Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!  
Praise to You by both be given; Alleluia!  
Every knee to You shall bow, Alleluia!  
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in your glorious resurrection. Yet we have not lived as Easter people. We are unsure of your promise, confused about your will, and afraid in the face of danger. Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but do not recognize your presence. Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know you with confidence. Whenever we are tempted to fear death, give us courage to confess your Easter victory. Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts, keep our minds on your reconciling love. Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil, reveal again to us your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression. Forgive us our sin and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Listen, church: God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

## GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

### **Make of this world your new creation!**

Before we call, you answer, O Lord. Before we speak, you know our words.

### **Living God, hear our prayer.**

Let there be joy in Jerusalem, and peace among all nations.

### **Living God, hear our prayer.**

Let sounds of weeping and cries of distress turn to shouts of joy and laughter.

### **Living God, hear our prayer.**

Let infants grow and thrive; let the old dance like children.

### **Living God, hear our prayer.**

Let every person find a home and enjoy the fruit of their labor.

### **Living God, hear our prayer.**

Let the wolf and the lamb live in peace; let no one hurt or destroy another.

### **Living God, hear our prayer.**

Show us, O God, the holy mountain you have prepared, the new heaven and new earth you have promised, so that we may be glad and rejoice in your presence forever; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

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

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has given us life in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruit of our labor to God's service.

## HYMN *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain  
Of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought forth Israel  
Into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters;  
Led them, with unmoistened foot,  
Through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today;  
Christ has burst His prison,  
And from three days' sleep in death  
As a sun hath risen.  
Now rejoice, Jerusalem,  
And with true affection  
Welcome in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to believe the good news; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS<sup>ii</sup>

#### OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 65:17–25

<sup>17</sup> For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.  
<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.  
<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.  
<sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be  
considered accursed.

<sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
<sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their  
hands.  
<sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—  
and their descendants as well.  
<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the LORD.

#### NEW TESTAMENT

John 20:1–18

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” 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.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> 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.’” <sup>18</sup> 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.

**HOLY COMMUNION****INVITATION**<sup>iii</sup>

On this day, we celebrate the risen Christ

**On this day, we celebrate resurrection in our lives.**

On this day, we embrace the grace which reaches from the tomb.

**On this day, we embrace faith by committing to love in action.**

On this day, we shout Hallelujah!

**On this day we shout, Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

**PRAYER OF COMMUNION**

It is through our neighbors and creation that we see the rising of Christ, O God.

Creator of Our Earth: We celebrate the shifting of seasons from one to the next. As the earth sheds its snow, it begins to drink in the warm rains and creation comes alive once again.

And so in this spirit of brightness and life, we celebrate.

**We celebrate the risen Christ in our midst. We celebrate the table in which we can join together with friends and strangers, loved ones and enemies.**

Through this meal which has stood the test of time, we covenant to love you, God. We covenant to love as Jesus the Christ loved us- loving our neighbors as ourselves. Through a simple meal of grain and grape, we, your children, unite.

As we enter this season of Easter, we ask that the warm winds of the Spirit encircle this table and accompany us on our journey. May this Spirit help us to recognize the Christ-presence in our midst. May the Spirit open our souls in order for us to see humanity, God and creation through the eyes of Jesus.

It was Jesus who introduced this meal to his followers. Even though Jesus knew he would be betrayed and deserted by those at this supper, he still continued to join them at the table, sharing time and space with whom he grew closest.

As the night lengthened, Jesus took a simple portion of bread. He blessed it and broke it, and shared it with the disciples. He urged them: *Remember me.*

Afterwards, Jesus took the cup. During his blessing, Jesus reminded them how he would go to the ends of the earth in his love for them.

**Today, we celebrate this earth-shaking love of Jesus – a love that sent him to the cross and a love that lives eternally with us, encouraging us to live a resurrected life.**

The Bread of Life and the Cup of the Covenant: Gifts to unite the Body of Christ.

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS****PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Through this space and time together today, we celebrate the covenant that ties us with God, Jesus the Christ, our neighbors and creation. Thank you, Divine Crafter of the Table, for fashioning us a holy meal unites us with the Body of Christ. Send us into the world resurrected, refreshed and ready to share Christ's unconditional love. **Amen.**

**HYMN**

*Thine Is the Glory*

Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment  
Rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes  
Where Thy body lay.

Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;

Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us,  
Risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly He greets us,  
Scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness  
Hymns of triumph sing,  
For the Lord now liveth;  
Death hath lost its sting.

Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt Thee,  
Glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without Thee;  
Aid us in our strife.

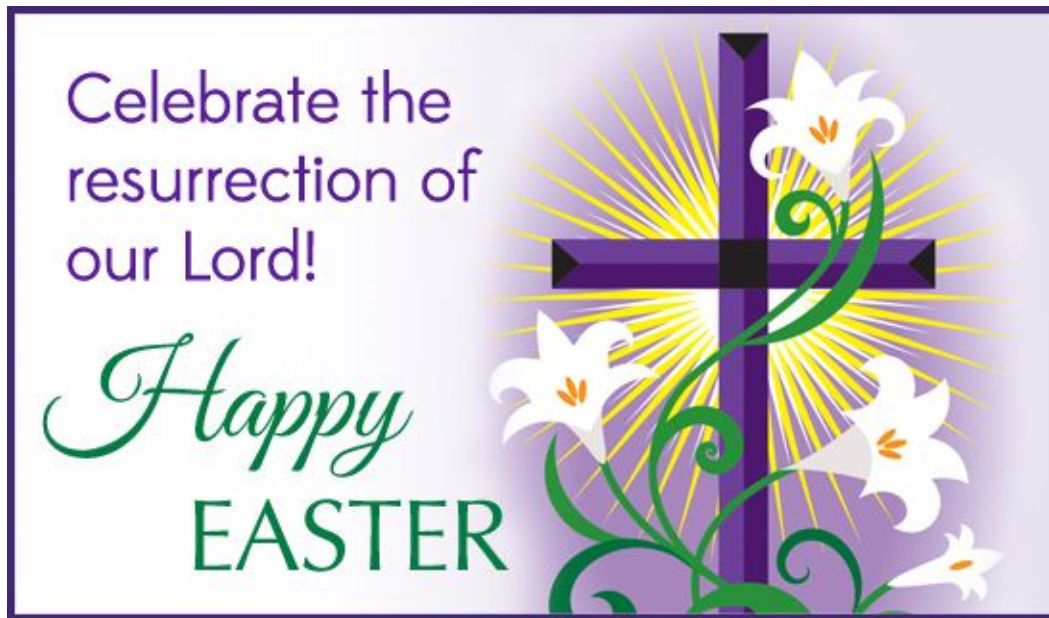
Make us more than conquerors  
Through Thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan  
To Thy home above.

Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won.

### CHARGE AND BLESSING

Receive the good news: Christ is risen from the dead. Tell the good news: the power of death shall no more oppress us. Live the good news: we are free to love as he has loved us.

May God who raised Jesus from the dead bless you and by the power of the Holy Spirit raise you with him in glory.



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<sup>i</sup> Unless otherwise noted, Worship Elements are from: Bartlett, David L.; Taylor, Barbara Brown; Long, Kimberly Bracken. *Feasting on the Word Lenten Companion*. Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

<sup>ii</sup> Scripture quotations from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible are copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and are used by permission.

<sup>iii</sup> The Communion Liturgy is from <https://michelleorigian.com/2018/03/29/an-easter-sunday-communion-liturgy/>.