



Bedford Presbyterian Church

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021 at 10 AM

Worship-at-a-Distance Format

GATHERING TOGETHER

Chimes

Gathering Music

“Easter Fanfare on Vreuchten”
Eric Berry, trumpet

arr. Haan

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John Sawyer

Introit (Hymn # 587)

“Alleluia!”

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to Worship¹

Elder Kathy Loveless

This day is like every other day.

The sun rose. Weary bodies came to life.

And yet this day, is like *no* other day —

For the sun rose, and we knew it was a miracle. The tomb was empty, and they knew it was love.

So again and again we say —

The longest night is over. Death has lost its sting. Jesus is among us. Alleluia! Amen.

Again and again and again —

Alleluia! Amen.

Hymn # 232 (see below)

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

Elder Kathy Loveless

Before God and before each other, we confess: We have seen the sun rise and withheld our praise. We have seen our neighbors suffer and have withheld our aid. We have seen love extended and chosen to walk away. We have seen divisions deepen and managed to remain unfazed. May God forgive us, grant us a new life, and help us to forgive one another. Amen.

Friends, we are heard and seen. We are forgiven. God’s love is like the sun.

No matter how lost we are in the night, day after day, the light will find us. Beloved people of God: Rest easy. You are held in God’s warmth.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

Sung Response (Hymn # 587)

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

Children’s Sermon

Pastor John Sawyer

¹ Some of the prayers and readings in today’s service are by The Reverend Sarah Are and adapted and used with permission from A Sanctified Art, LLC.

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Kathy Loveless

First Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18

Listen now for the Word of God.

Our ears are open. . .

Second Scripture Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

Pastor John Sawyer

. . . The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Lifting the Veil”
(Unshrouding the Resurrection)

Pastor John Sawyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn # 238 (see below)

“Thine is the Glory”

JUDAS MACCABEUS

Statement of Faith – from A Sanctified Art

Deacon Kevin Avery

We know the fear of the upper room. We know the feeling of hard days and long nights. We know the grief of the tomb, and the particular ache of saying goodbye. We know the pain of Good Friday, and we know the darkness before dawn. And still, *and still*, we believe.

We believe that again and again, the sun will rise. Again and again, God will draw near. Again and again, we will march toward justice. Again and again, the tomb will be empty. Again and again, Love will win. Again and again, God will lead the church. Again and again, and again and again, we will be loved.

The journey will not be perfect. We will need to rise before dawn. We will need angels along the way. But again and again, the sun *will* rise. We believe. Amen.

Call for the Offering

Deacon Kevin Avery

Offertory

“The Hallelujah Side”
Sean Michalski, soloist

Oatman/Entwisle

At this time, you are invited to offer your tithes and offerings, by writing a check and putting it in an envelope to the church, or through our church’s online giving website (<https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/giving/one-time-gifts-pledges/>), or by scanning this QR code and making a donation.



Your giving has a direct impact on the ministry and mission of Bedford Presbyterian Church! Thank you!

Song of Response (Hymn # 609)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Deacon Kevin Avery

Holy God, you shower us with gifts so abundant, we cannot measure them all. You give us life itself and the power to befriend our companions in this world. Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer ("debts/debtors")

Pastor John Sawyer

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.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn # 236 (see below)

"The Strife is O'er"

VICTORY

Charge and Benediction and Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And with you.

Closing Song

NORTHUMBRIA MORNING BLESSING

***May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home, rejoicing, at the wonders he has shown you.
May he bring you home, rejoicing, once again into our doors.***

Postlude

"Variation on Vruuchten"

arr. Haan

Eric Berry, trumpet



Liturgists and Leaders in today's worship service –

The Reverend John Sawyer, Pastor

Mrs. Barbara Flocco, Director of Music

Elder Kathy Loveless, Liturgist

Deacon Kevin Avery, Liturgist

Special Musicians –

Eric Berry, trumpet

Sean Michalski, soloist

Jill Pennington, soloist on Hymns

Marc Murai, Elder Michael Chen, and Kirk Wilson, Sound and Video Technicians

Members of our IT and Communications Committee and Covid-19 Task Force

Information on ways to access audio and video versions of today's service can be found at www.bedfordpresbyterian.org.

Alleluia!

587

A E D E A D E

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

A E Bm E A D E A

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981; harm. Christopher Walker, 1985

Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker (Published by OCP)

CELTIC ALLELUIA

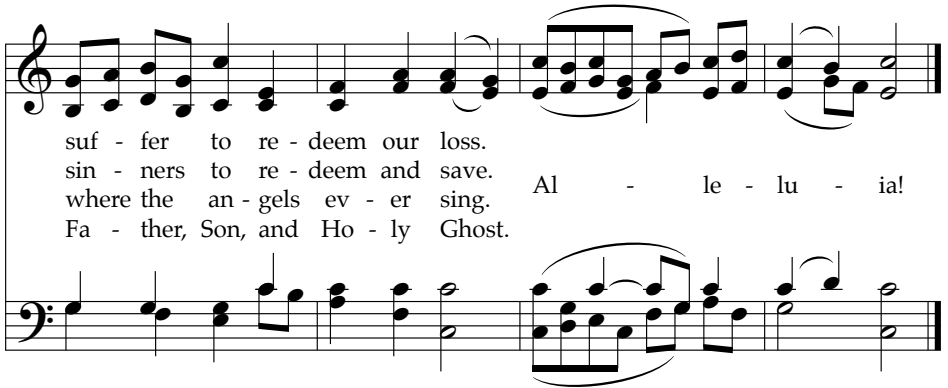
232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured,
4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King,
Praise our God, ye heaven - ly host,

It seems likely that this beloved Easter text began in Latin and moved through German before reaching English, where it combined with the present tune in the emerging English evangelical style, a reaction to the restrained one-note-per-syllable psalmody that preceded it.



suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

SPANISH

- 1 *El Señor resucitó, ¡Aleluya!*
muerte y tumba ya venció. ¡Aleluya!
Con su fuerza y su virtud ¡Aleluya!
cautivó la esclavitud. ¡Aleluya!
- 2 *El que al polvo se humilló, ¡Aleluya!*
vencedor se levantó. ¡Aleluya!
Cante hoy la cristiandad ¡Aleluya!
su gloriosa majestad. ¡Aleluya!
- 3 *Cristo, que la cruz sufrió, ¡Aleluya!*
y en desolación se vio, ¡Aleluya!
hoy en gloria celestial ¡Aleluya!
reina vivo e inmortal. ¡Aleluya!
- 4 *Cristo, nuestro Salvador, ¡Aleluya!*
de la muerte es triunfador. ¡Aleluya!
En El hemos de confiar. ¡Aleluya!
Cantaremos sin cesar. ¡Aleluya!

KOREAN

- 1 예수 부활 했으니 할렐루야
 만민 찬송 하여라
 천사들이 즐거워
 기뻐 찬송 부르네
- 2 대속하신 주 예수 할렐루야
 선한 싸움 이겼네
 사망 권세 이기고
 하늘 문을 여셨네
- 3 마귀 권세 이긴 주 할렐루야
 왕의 왕이 되셨네
 높은 이름 세상에
 널리 반포 하여라
- 4 길과 진리 되신 주 할렐루야
 우리 부활 하겠네
 부활 생명 되시니
 우리 부활 하겠네

238 Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing Son; end - less is
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic-tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai-ment
 he greets us, scat-ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad-ness
 with-out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con-querors

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death-less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing
 to thy home a - bove.

This Easter text, first in French and later in English, was written to fit the music, a chorus created for Handel's oratorio *Joshua* and moved to *Judas Maccabeus* in 1751. It grew widely popular following its use at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

JESUS CHRIST: RESURRECTION

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). The piano accompaniment is written on a bass clef staff with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won." The music consists of a series of chords and melodic lines that support the text.

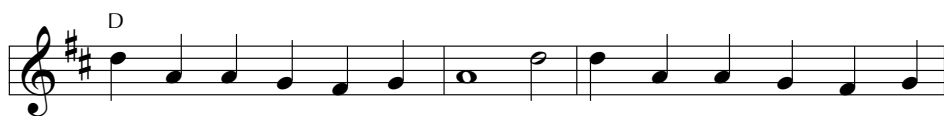
609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



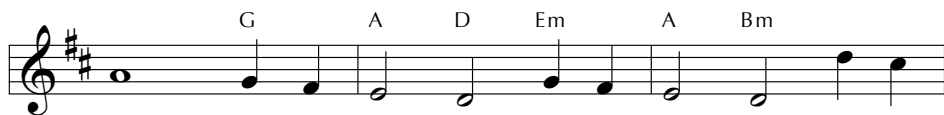
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures



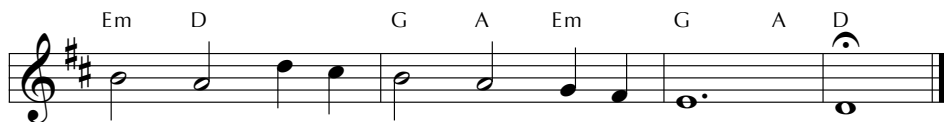
high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise



God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit



one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia



lu - ia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Strife Is O'er

236

Refrain (before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; the vic - to -
2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped; Christ ris - es
4 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
le - gions hath dis - persed: let shouts of ho - ly
glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
sting thy ser - vants free, that we may live, and

has be - gun.
joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
ris - en Head!
sing to thee:

The Latin text from which this hymn has been translated may well be older than its earliest printing in a 17th-century collection published in Cologne. It is set to an adaptation of a portion of the Gloria Patri section from a 16th-century choral version of the Magnificat.