

Highland Presbyterian Church
Maryville, TN



Sunday, April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday
Holy Communion Sunday

Prelude

*Crown Him Lord of All
Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Ellor / McDonald
Sullivan / McDonald

Welcome

Dr. Cynthia M. Benz

Opening Words (Responsive)

One: This day is like every other day.

All: Alarm clocks beeped. Covers were removed. Coffee was brewed. Weary bodies came to life.

One: And yet this day, is like no other day—

All: For the sun rose, and we knew it was a miracle.

The tomb was empty, and they knew it was love.

One: So, again and again, we say —

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

One: Again and again and again —

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*Opening Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Hymn 123

Call to Confession

Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness (Communal)

Community, before God and before you, my family, I confess:

I have seen the sun rise and withheld my praise.

I have seen my neighbor suffer and withheld my aid.

I have seen love extended and chosen to walk away.

I have seen divisions deepen and managed to remain unfazed.

We hear you. We see you. You 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 you. Rest easy. You are held in God's warmth.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Time for the Children

"CiCi"

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Cynthia M. Benz

Scripture

John 20:1-18

(from The Message paraphrase of the Bible)

Sermon

Special Music

Easter Is Here

*(Performed by Melissa Meade, Heather Skiver,
Leonard Blankner, David Kemp, and Jusarra Horton)*

Affirmation of Faith (Communal)

**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.**

Holy Communion, Prayers of the People 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.

Closing Hymn

Thine Is the Glory

Hymn 122

Easter Blessing and Charge (Responsive)

Postlude

Festive Voluntary

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Liturgy and artwork are from *A Sanctified Art*, LLC, which we have used throughout the Lenten season. Thank you to Melissa Meade, Heather Skiver, Leonard Blankner, and David Kemp for providing voice for today's music.