



**April 11, 2021**

***A dynamic, transforming church, where all are welcome,  
lives are changed, and the gospel is lived and proclaimed.***

## Seven Stanzas at Easter

American novelist, the late John Updike, was greatly influenced in his writing by his Catholic faith. He wrote this poem while he was still in his twenties.

Make no mistake: if he rose at all  
It was as His body;  
If the cell's dissolution did not reverse, the molecule reknit,  
The amino acids rekindle,  
The Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,  
Each soft spring recurrent;  
It was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled eyes of the  
Eleven apostles;  
It was as His flesh; ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes  
The same valved heart  
That—pierced—died, withered, paused, and then regathered  
Out of enduring Might  
New strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,  
Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,  
Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded  
Credulity of earlier ages:  
Let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,  
Not a stone in a story,  
But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of  
Time will eclipse for each of us  
The wide light of day.

And if we have an angel at the tomb,  
Make it a real angel,  
Weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair, opaque in  
The dawn light, robed in real linen  
Spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,  
For our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,  
Lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are embarrassed  
By the miracle, and crushed by remonstrance.



# WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am

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## **We Gather Around the Word**

*We ask your help in caring for others throughout this morning's service.  
We would ask that throughout the service you wear a mask and observe social distancing.  
We will also not be having hospitality hour following the service.  
We encourage you to fellowship outdoors after the service.*

**Prelude:** “*Chant de Joie (Song of Joy)*”  
Jean Langlais

Ryan Croyle

### **First Church News**

**Time of Welcome**

Rev. Tom Hall

### **\*Responsive Call to Worship**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**People:** “**He is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.**”

Leader: Let us confess with our mouths, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead.

**People:** “**Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**”

**All:** Let us call upon our true God, believing him in our hearts,  
confessing him with our mouths, worshipping him in spirit and in truth.

**\*Hymn #185:** “*The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done*” (verses 1-3)

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Tom Hall

**H**eavenly Father, we come to you today confessing that even though you plant a seed of faith within us, we do not act upon it. You call to us to help spread your kingdom and we do not trust that you will go with us, so we do not go. We confess that we are afraid to act boldly and claim the promises that you have for us, and therefore we do not receive from You all that You want us to have. Forgive us for not acting on our faith, for not being bold, for not trusting in You, and for not participating in the growth of our faith.

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Children’s Message**

Jana Hall

**\*Hymn #202:** *“This Joyful Eastertide”*

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading:** John 4:43-54

Frank Hancock

After the two days he left for Galilee. <sup>44</sup> (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) <sup>45</sup> When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there.

<sup>46</sup> Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.

<sup>47</sup> When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

<sup>48</sup> “Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”

<sup>49</sup> The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” <sup>50</sup> “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. <sup>51</sup> While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. <sup>52</sup> When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

<sup>53</sup> Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed.

<sup>54</sup> This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

**Sermon - “Healing the Official’s Son”**

Frank Hancock

**\*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed**

Rev. Dan Turis

**I** believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

## Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**O**ur 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; 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

Rev. Dan Turis



*Online giving available through GivePlus.*

*Ushers will also be available at the exits if you wish to make a contribution.*

## Anthem: "There is a Redeemer"

Melody Green, arr. Lloyd Larson

Matt Sartore, *bass*

Alicia Marcinko, *soprano*

*There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.*

*Jesus, my Redeemer,  
Name above all names;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Hope for sinners slain.*

*Chorus: Thank you, O my Father,  
For giving us your Son,  
And leaving you Spirit till  
The work on earth is done.*

*I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What joy this blest assurance gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living Head!*

*He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Savior, still the same;  
What joy this blest assurance gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives! (Chorus)*

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**\*Prayer of Commitment**

Rev. Dan Turis

**\*Hymn #184:** *"Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing"*

**\*Invitation and Charge**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude:** *"Gelobt Sei Gott"*  
arr. Healey Willan

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

*Alleluia to be sung at the beginning and conclusion of the hymn*

D G D Bm F#m D A D *Fine*

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

D G A D

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; he ris - es

Bm D A D G

ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
 le - gions has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly  
 glo - rious from the dead. All glo - ry to our

A D A D

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

## This Joyful Eastertide

E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Fm Gm E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> sus B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and sad - ness!  
 Our Lord, the cru - ci - fied, has filled our hearts with glad - ness.  
 2 My be - ing shall re - joice, se - cure with - in God's keep - ing,  
 un - til the trum - pet voice shall wake us from our sleep - ing.

*Refrain* B<sup>b7</sup> A<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three - day pris - on, our

B<sup>b7</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Fm B<sup>b7</sup> E<sup>b</sup> Cm7

faith would be in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -

A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b7</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

ris - en, but now has Christ a - ris - en.

3 Death's waters lost their chill when Jesus crossed the river.  
 His love shall reach me still; his mercy is forever.

*Refrain*

# 184 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

C Em F G C

1 Good Chris-tians all, re-joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
 2 The Lord of life is risen to - day. Sing songs of praise a -  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which

G D G C Em Dm C

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 long his way. Let all the world re - joice and say:  
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:

*Refrain* Am G D G Am G C

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

## Upcoming Opportunities . . .

**Our Annual Congregation Meeting** will be held **Sunday, April 18** after worship. It will also be available via Zoom. More details will be provided soon.

**Interested in becoming a member?** A New Member class will be starting up again soon. Let the church office or a pastor know. Leave a message at 412-471-3436 or email [cswartz@fpcp.org](mailto:cswartz@fpcp.org).

### **Need Validated Parking?**

Sundays only, get your parking ticket stamped at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). See the person in the payment booth at Mellon Square, Oliver Avenue or Smithfield Street garage to pay \$1 for parking.

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