



# First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

## PRELUDE - Hani

### Prelude on "Easter Hymn"

Arr. Lyra Davidica

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## PROCESSIONAL HYMN #159 *Lift High the Cross* (v. 4)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory!

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

### **Lift High The Cross (Crucifer)**

George William Kitchin | Michael Robert Newbolt | Sydney Hugo Nicholson

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## WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The tomb is dark, but empty

**People: The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness**

Leader: The stone has been rolled away

**People: The one you are looking for has overcome death**

Leader: The burial clothes are put aside

**People: The one you are looking for is alive!**

Leader: Christ is Risen!

**People: Christ is Risen Indeed! Let us worship our Risen Savior!**

*Written by Rev. Mindi on her Rev-o-lution blog*

**OPENING HYMN #302 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* (v. 1-4)**

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2. 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!

3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

**Christ The Lord Is Risen Today (Easter Hymn)**

Charles Wesley | Lyra Davidica  
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**EASTER PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison prayer*)**

**Gracious and Patient God, we come before you with so many things which weigh us down. We would like an "easy" faith, one that doesn't cause us to look within ourselves, to identify those many ways in which we have forsaken you. But faith is never easy. It requires our very souls. Forgive us, God, for all those things which we have neglected to do that would have helped someone else to be closer to you. Heal our hearts from the wounds which have been inflicted upon us by the anger and misunderstandings which occur in relationships. Prepare our lives to be of service to you. In silence, we wait. We long for your presence and your healing touch. AMEN.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE - Rev. Jacob Lee**

God is merciful. God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Feel the healing, loving power of God in your lives, for it is given to you through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*(Written by Nancy C. Townley, posted on the Ministry Matters)*

**EASTER PRAISING - Hallelujah Homies (Youth Band)**

Today's a new day but there is no sunshine  
Nothing but clouds and it's dark in my heart  
And it feels like a cold night

Today's a new day but where are my blue skies  
Where is the love and the joy that you promised me  
Tell me it's alright

I almost gave up but a power that I can't explain  
Fell from heaven like a shower now

I smile, even though I hurt see, I smile  
I know God is working so I smile  
Even though I've been here for a while I smile

Smile, it's so hard to look up when you get down  
Sure would hate to see you give up now  
You look so much better when you smile so smile

Today's a new day but there is no sunshine  
Nothing but clouds and it's dark in my heart  
And it feels like a cold night

Today's a new day but where are my blue skies  
Where is the love and the joy that you promised me  
Tell me it's alright

I almost gave up but a power that I can't explain  
Fell from heaven like a shower now

I smile, even though I hurt see, I smile  
I know God is working so I smile  
Even though I've been here for a while I smile

Smile, it's so hard to look up when you get down  
Sure would hate to see you give up now  
You look so much better when you smile so smile

Smile for me  
Can you just smile for me

Smile for me  
Can you just smile for me

Oh oh oh, you look so much better when you  
Oh oh oh, you look so much better when you  
Oh oh oh, you look so much better when you  
Oh oh oh, you look so much better when you smile

I almost gave up but a power that I can't explain  
Fell from heaven like a shower now right now

I smile, even though I hurt see, I smile  
I know God is working so I smile  
Even though I've been here for a while I smile

Smile, it's so hard to look up when you get down  
Sure would hate to see you give up now  
You look so much better when you smile, so smile

### **I Smile**

Frederick Tackett | James Harris | Kirk Franklin | Terry Lewis  
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### **CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION - The Lord's Prayer**

### **PASTOR'S TIME WITH THE CHILDREN - Rev. Jacob Lee**

### **RECEPTION OF NEW CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS**

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER / 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. Amen.**

### **EASTER PRAISING - P.A.L.A. Singers**

#### **WOMEN:**

In the resurrection morning we will see the Savior coming;  
The sons of God a shouting in the kingdom of the Lord.

#### **MEN:**

We can fill the advent glory while the vision seems to tarry;  
We'll comfort one another with the holy written Word.



*CHORUS:*

We shall rise, we shall rise!  
In the resurrection morning we shall rise  
*Repeat*

*WOMEN:*

By our faith we can discover that our war will soon be over; We'll shortly hail each other on fair heaven's happy shore.

*MEN:*

We will tell the pleasing story when we meet our friends in glory; We'll keep ourselves all ready for to hail the heavenly King.

*WOMEN:*

We shall rise, we shall  
Praise the Lord in the resurrection morning we shall rise.

*MEN:*

Hallelujah! Praise the trump of  
God shall sound, the trump of God  
shall sound. Praise the Lord in the  
resurrection morning He's alive.

*CHORUS:*

We shall rise, we shall rise!  
In the resurrection morning we shall rise  
*Repeat*

*ALL:*

In the resurrection morning  
HE'S ALIVE!!

**In the Resurrection Morning**

R. E. Winsett  
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**OFFERING**

For those who are called and able, gifts and tithes can still be made through [online giving](#), by mailing them in, and by dropping them off to the church office through the secure mail slot to the left of the double door entry to the church hallway.

## OFFERTORY MUSIC - Chancel Choir

### You Raise Me Up with Be Still, My Soul

Rolf Loveland and Brendan Graham, Arr. by Tom Fettke; Orchestrated by Bruce Greer

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## DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Old 100th)

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of the victory of life over death; on this glorious Easter Sunday, we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Just as the women encountered the empty tomb and the angelic message of new life, we too encounter the living Christ in our hearts and lives. As we come to present our tithes and offerings, may they be an affirmation of our search for the risen Christ, the one who challenges us to see beyond our own expectations. Bless our giving and help us discover the transformative power of the living Jesus in our lives. In the holy name of our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE Matthew 28:1-15 (NRSV)

1 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

11 While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, 13 telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

*Response*

The Word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem - Chancel Choir**

**This Is the Day**

Jay Althouse

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**SERMON - Rev. Jacob Lee**

*This Is My Message for You*

**CLOSING HYMN #304 *Easter People, Raise your Voices***

1. Easter people, raise your voices,  
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;  
heavenly music, let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Easter people, let us sing.

2. Fear of death can no more stop us  
from our pressing here below.  
For our Lord empowered us to  
triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
On to victory now we go.

3. Every day to us is Easter,  
with its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster  
to our God who rights the wrong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
See the power of heavenly throngs.

**Easter People, Raise Your Voices (Regent Square)**

Henry Thomas Smart | William M. James

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**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah**

George Frideric Handel

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**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE - Hani**

**“Final” from Symphony No. 1**

Louis Vierne

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