

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES OF NEW BERN
EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 12, 2020

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of endless life, in the light of this new day we see the dawning of your new creation.
Give us wonder and delight to enjoy this day that you have made; through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. David Fuentes

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. David Fuentes

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

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Sin and death shall reign no more.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Let this place resound with joy.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 238 Thine Is the Glory Budry/Handel

**1 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.**

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.**

**2 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. (Refrain)**

**3 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. (Refrain)**

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

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.

CONFESSION The Rev. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

**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.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON The Rev. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

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.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW The Rev. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’
This is the greatest and the first commandment.
And a second is like it,
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37-39**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Please greet or respond to one another:
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Take this moment to think or write down a particular person you feel called to reach to this week to further share the peace of Christ with the world.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION The Rev. John Robinson

Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit roll away the stone
and reveal to us the Word of Life. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON Acts 10:34-43 (NRSV)**The Rev. John Robinson**

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

ANTHEM Pat Rowlett – solo**SECOND LESSON** Matthew 28:1–10 (NRSV)**The Rev. David Fuentes**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 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." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

SERMON "Do Not Be Afraid"**The Rev. Eddie Bellis****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** A Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA) 1991 **The Rev. David Fuentes****We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.****Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:****preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,****teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,****healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,****eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,****and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.****Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,****Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain****and giving his life for the sins of the world.****God raised this Jesus from the dead,****vindicating his sinless life,****breaking the power of sin and evil,****delivering us from death to life eternal.**

OFFERING The Rev. David Fuentes

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. You are invited to continue to support the good work of each of the Presbyterian churches of New Bern. And in this time, consider ways to use your gifts and time to show love of Christ – use your sewing skills to make reusable sloth masks for healthcare workers, donate food for Backpack Blessings to distribute to hungry school children, call those you know who are living alone.

Offertory Youth of West New Bern

PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER The Rev. Robert Johnson

HYMN 232 Jesus Christ is Risen Today Wesley/1740

**1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

BENEDICTION The Rev. David Fuentes

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.