

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church



Easter Day • March 31, 2024

If you are looking
for a blessing,
do not linger
here.

Here
is only emptiness,
a hollow, a husk
where a blessing
used to be.

This blessing
was not content
in its confinement

It could not abide
its isolation,
the unrelenting silence,
the pressing stench
of death.

So if it is
a blessing you seek,
open your own mouth.

Fill your lungs
with the air
this new morning brings

and then
release it
with a cry.

Hear how the blessing
breaks forth
in your own voice,

how your own lips
form every word
you never dreamed
to say.

See how the blessing
circles back again,
wanting you to
repeat it,
but louder,

how it draws you,
pulls you,
sends you
to proclaim
its only word:

Risen.
Risen.
Risen.

Jan Richardson

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day

March 31, 2024

11:00 a.m.

CHIME

PRELUDE

Handbell Choir

FIRST READING

Mark 16:1-8

OPENING PRAYER

EASTER ACCLAMATION

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*HYMN 232

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

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!

sinner 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!

WORDS OF GRACE AND WELCOME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Resurrecting God,
Forgive us for reciting the Easter story
as though the miracle were finished and gone,
something that happened a long time ago.**

**Startle us, too, on the way to the grave.
Renew in us the claim of our baptism,
the joy of your call, the eternal gift of Easter.**

Silent prayer

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

...in the name of Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
let us declare:

**Our stories are known; our sins are forgiven;
our work has just begun.**

***RESPONSE**

(Hymn 582)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. (3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children and youth are invited to come forward.

SECOND READING

Isaiah 25:6-8

ANTHEM

Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!

Warren Martin

*O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of heaven, the glorious King,
Over death today rose triumphing. Alleluia!*

*That Easter morn, at break of day,
The faithful women went their way.
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay. Alleluia!*

*An angel clad in white they see,
Who sat and spake unto the three,
“Your Lord doth go to Galilee.” Alleluia!*

*Our hearts and voices raise,
O Lord, to Thee, in praise and jubilee. Alleluia!*

SERMON

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

“The Rest of the Story”

***HYMN 231**

“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”
SUO GAN

1 Christ has risen while earth slumbers;
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!

2 Christ has risen for the people
whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
can't be silenced by the tomb.

3 Christ has risen and for ever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

John 11:25-26, Romans 6:8-9

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

**If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.
We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.**

***HYMN 526**

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”
LINSTEAD

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken; the wine is poured;
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
(Refrain)

2 Christ is able to make us one;
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. (Refrain)

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! (Refrain)

Refrain:

Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

TABLE PRAYER

God of the crocus and the summer wheat....

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

**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.**

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

**Holy One,
You have made us unlikely witnesses to the miracle
of your boundless power and undying love,
and so we dare to hope with the full measure of our hearts.
Send us out in joy as Easter people,
to give ourselves gladly to the life unfolding around and within us.
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus,
whose love the grave could not hold. Amen.**

***HYMN 248**

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

HYMN TO JOY

1 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.

2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.

3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF

Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Transitional Pastor
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Liturgist: Pat Levi

Easter Brunch Hosts: The Congregational Life Team

Elder of the Day: Don Collins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshiping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us. Please fill out a visitor information card, located on the right as you enter the chapel.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: If you would like to add or update a prayer request, please contact the church office (298-9092). *Recently updated entries are in italics.*

We remember in prayer: *Mary Fran Spencer and family, on Darrell's death*; Jackie Ligon Cole; Pat Crumpler; *Will Dale (Jamie's brother), anticipating cardiac bypass surgery in April, following lung cancer surgery in late February*; Vernon Daugherty, Sr. (Derron's father); Martha Dugger; Rick Garrison; Houston Huggins (Beth Meriwether's brother); Erika Lytle; Salyna Morgan; *Beth Newman and her family, at the news that Beth's stem-cell transplant was successful and she is in full remission. She is hoping to return soon to the Asheville area*; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Jon Hettrick and his family; Marjorie Hettrick; *Allyson Hettrick's mother, Sylvia Revis, as she recovers from a fall in assisted living*; Kim Reece (daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison); Shane Reece (Nancy Garrison's son); Pat Wilson's son, Kell.

12:15 EASTER EGG HUNT After worship, there will be an Easter egg hunt on the lawn! If you have no basket, one will be provided.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. WWPC will receive this special offering through Easter, March 31. Please give as generously as you are able. You may make a note that the gift is for the One Great Hour of Sharing on the memo line of your check, or you may give online.

OFFERING Plates are available just inside the doors to the sanctuary as you enter and exit. Our gifts take many forms: our open-hearted presence here, voices lifted in song, the prayers that rise in us, the material gifts we intend to share with the world, and our willingness to live in a world as advocates for those whose needs are overlooked. The money we bring symbolizes the offering of our lives in all circumstances.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Sunday, April 14: We'll have lunch together in the fellowship hall as we learn from **Dr. Jeff Keith's re-examination of the history of Warren Wilson College.** Dr. Keith's work is funded by a Lilly Endowment grant.

[Online signup sheet – 04/14](#)

Sunday April 21: Please make plans to attend the luncheon kick-off of “**Holy Conversations,**” the **Mission Study** that will inform our path forward, and ultimately guide our search for a new pastor. **Congregational participation is crucial as we seek to answer these vital questions: *Who are we? What is God calling us to be and do? Who Is our neighbor?*** We will provide the food; all that you need to do is to come ready to listen and engage with others who care about this worshiping community and its ministry in the world. **(You do not need to be an official “member” to participate in this process—if you have interest in this community, we’d love for you to come!)** \ [Online signup sheet - 04/21](#)

RSVP: Please let us know that you plan to attend these events. Sign-up sheets are in the lobby, or you may respond online, or by emailing or calling the church office. If you plan to come on April 14, please let us know by Wed., April 10. If you plan to come on April 21, please let us know by Wed., April 17.

Cover illustration: <https://johntsquires.com/>



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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<http://www.warrenwilsonchurch.org/>

At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole -and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!

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