

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 19, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

Opening

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o’er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Greeting & Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

One: Sing a new song!

All: A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth

One: Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God

All: Who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday

One: Immerse your anxiety and despair in the fountain of new birth.

All: We place our visions and hopes on the table of wine and wheat.

One: For God has taken ordinary things.

All: And made them extraordinary.

Bruce, Dale, and Anna Morine

**"It Came upon a Sunrise Bright"
(Tune: "It Came upon a Midnight Clear")**

It came upon a sunrise bright,
that glorious promise anew,
That Jesus, though he was crucified,
now lives for me and for you.
Peace on earth, goodwill to all,
from Heaven rejoicing on high,
The world with joyful dancing
shares the news that He is alive.
The women with their spices came,
the body to anoint,
They found the tomb was empty
and they heard an angel appoint.
The time, the place, the reason why,
you'll find your Jesus on high,
And then in joy the woman shared
the news that He is alive.

Prayer of Confession

You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair, which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus who can bring us home to your heart. Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling, and upside-down ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with our healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior*Silent Confession*....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: ...Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**"God Rest Ye Merry Sinner"
(Tune: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen")**

God bless you merry sinner,
you're forgiven it is true;
Remember Christ your Savior
has lived and died for you,
and lives again as King of Kings,
of saint and sinner, too.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy,
peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

In Jerusalem at Calvary
that dismal Friday morn,
amid the pain and suffering
eternal life was born.
It came with arms outstretched to us,
right through the curtain torn.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy,
peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

So sing an alleluia,
for our Savior's victory,
and shout to all "Hosanna!"
that we have been set free
from sin and death and devil's grip
throughout eternity.
We'll have tidings of Easter peace and joy,
peace and joy.
Glad tidings of Easter peace and joy.

Prayer for Illumination

Reading

Genesis 18: 1-15

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus is alive.**

**While soldiers watched the gravesite
that quiet Sunday dawn
there came a big commotion
and then the storm was gone.**

**The women found no body
their spices to anoint;
instead they found an angel,
God's message to appoint.**

**Go from where He isn't
to where He said He'd be.
An Easter-time reunion:
the hills of Galilee.**

Prayers of the People...concluding with the Lord's Prayer

*After each petition, Pastor will say "Lord, In Your Mercy."
Congregation will respond with "Hear Our 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.***

**"Beautiful Day"
(Tune: "Silent Night")**

**Beautiful Day, Glorious Day
All is new, all's okay!
'Round the tomb
There is dancing and song,
See inside that the body is gone.
Christ, the Savior's alive,
Christ, the Savior's alive.**

Beautiful Day, Glorious Day,
Soldiers quake and run away,
The stone is cleared from heaven above,
Heavenly host says "Hallelujah,"
Jesus, Lord, at new birth,
Jesus, Lord, at new birth.
Beautiful Day, Glorious Day,
Sing and shout, tell and say,
Radiant beams from this sinner's face,
Show because of amazing grace,
Christ, the Savior's alive,
Christ, the Savior's alive.

Benediction