

Beecher Presbyterian Church Easter Sunday

April 17, 2022



Visit Beecher's Website: Beecherpcusa.org
Email: BeecherPCUSA@gmail.com
[Facebook.com/beecherpresbyterianchurch](https://www.facebook.com/beecherpresbyterianchurch)

*Indicates to please rise either in body or spirit

Bold text indicates unison response

Gathering Music

Judy Smith

Welcome, Concerns & Announcements

Opening Sentences

Today is the day mystery unfolds.

We glimpse it at the dawning of light.

We yearn to hear our Lord calling us:

sister, brother, sibling.

Today we recall again God's trustworthy promise:

The tomb is empty!

The Lord is risen!

The enemy of death is destroyed!

We delight, saying: alleluia!

We wonder, singing: alleluia!

We are witnesses shouting: alleluia!

*Hymn #123

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

On this bright and joyful day, we bring our whole selves to you, great God, honestly naming the truth about our lives.

We are sinking under piles of shame, judgment, and self-pity, feeling closer to hell than heaven. Christ, rend our veil of tears.

Restore us. Renew us. Revive us. In the name of the risen Christ we pray. *Time for silent prayer and reflection. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! The Lord is alive! The risen Lord destroys death, conquers sin, and wipes away all shame. We are drenched in radiating

mystery: God is with us. Receive the wonderful news: You are made alive in Christ. In Jesus Christ you are restored.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Response #579**

“Glory Be to the Father”

The Word is Read and Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens

and a new earth;

the former things shall not be remembered

or come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever

in what I am creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,

and its people as a delight.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem,

and delight in my people;

no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,

or the cry of distress.

²⁰ No more shall there be in it

an infant that lives but a few days,

or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;

for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,

and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them;

they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They shall not build and another inhabit;

they shall not plant and another eat;

for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
²³ They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—
and their descendants as well.
²⁴ Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

Special Music

Judy Smith

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:1-12

²⁴ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Response: This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved.
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Response to the Word

Affirmation of Faith (*From A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Offering to God our Gifts

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Judy Smith

***Doxology #592** *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

***Offertory Prayer**

***Hymn #106**

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

The Lord's Prayer (pg. 16 Blue Hymnal)

**Breaking the Bread
Sharing the Bread & Cup
Prayer after Communion**

Charge & Blessing

***Hymn #118**

“The Day of Resurrection!”

***Postlude**

Judy Smith

Beecher Life April 17, 2022

Prayer for today:

Alleluia! We praise you, O God, for the power of your saving love revealed in the resurrection of our Lord. As you have raised Jesus from the dead give to us the gift of everlasting life, that we may worship you forever; through Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries: 1st Donna Marple,
11th Rhianna Wessels, 21st Margo Northcutt, 28th Matthew Zinser

Upcoming Events:

April 24 – Dora Ernst Memorial Pancake Breakfast/brunch, Hopewell PC
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Prayer List

Please pray for: the leaders of our nation, the churches of our presbytery, Ukraine, Joe, Melissa Eckerle, Marge Stoll, the Menefee family, Roy Heitman, Jerry Henry, Mike & Hila Illing, the Stryker’s, Margie Oelker, Bob Oelker, Alicia Smith, Daphne House, Hailey Smith, Ry Wessels, Rick Lowes, Jackie Rhodes, the Clearinghouse, Glen Wiesmann, Roberta Pavey, Phillip Smith, Steve Wessels, Terry Wilson, Deborah McLaughlin, Jim Thompson, Beecher Presbyterian Church, Jeri Smith.

Minute for Mission

A common table prayer opens with “O Lord, make us truly thankful for that which we are about to receive ...”

It sounds pretty simple, doesn't it? But isn't there something a little strange about that prayer? I mean, why would anyone pray that way?

“Oh Lord, make us truly thankful ...” This little prayer acknowledges that an attitude of gratitude is something that we cannot do for ourselves. We are unable to “make” ourselves “truly thankful,” so we pray for God to make us more thankful than we really are. So, how do we do that? How does a person become “truly thankful”?

Well, one way to help us become “truly thankful” is to remember our story — the story of our lives. We need to recall and speak the story of who we are, where we've come from and how we got to be where we are at present.

Now, on the surface, recalling our story seems like the easiest thing we can do. We just tell what happened, just tell what we did and what decisions we made at the time, and why.

But just start to do that, however, and you'll discover that it's not as easy as you thought. “Where do I begin to tell the story of my life? What do I tell? What do I not tell? What's really important?”

This is a time for us to remember and retell our life's story.

But the problem for most of us is that we live such full and busy lives today that we don't have much time to remember, do we? Oh, we enjoy little moments of recollection now and then, morsels of memories that connect us to our past and our real identities.

We remember our story when we visit our hometown, or when we return for a class reunion, or when we clean out the garage, sit down for an hour with a photograph album or photos on our phone. But, by and large, our minds are too full; we are too preoccupied with the present to remember even a fraction of the past. We are too busy to recollect all the wonderful things stored — the stories — in our memories. We are so engrossed in the present, so mortgaged to the future that we don't have time for the past.

But what happens to a people who forget who they were? What happens to us when we don't make time to remember? What happens when we don't tell and retell our stories?

Well, we become ungrateful. We forget that we didn't always live here, in this moment — that we had an existence before the one with which we are struggling now. And so, we must pray, “O Lord, make us truly thankful for that which we are about to receive ...”

In the name of Jesus Christ, let me invite you to share your story with those around you. As you sit there at the table, pause for a moment, and try to remember. Remember the people that you have met and loved along the way in your life. Remember all the places that you have lived, from your childhood home to your present surroundings, and tell your story.

You see, in remembering, we become grateful, and when we have an attitude of gratitude, we become generous children of God. Indeed, we are truly thankful.

The Rev. Chris Roseland is the Lead Mission Engagement Advisor for the Presbyterian Mission Agency, serving the Northern region of the United States. This piece was originally published on [Where Your Heart Is ... A Weekly Offerings Stewardship Blog](#).

Questions for Reflection

What difference does it make to believe that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead? How does your faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ change the way you think about sin and death? How does it change the way you live?

Thought Provoker

On Easter Sunday, a Sunday school teacher asked the children what was special about the day. One of the little girls said, "Easter is the day that Jesus rose from the grave." The teacher was very pleased. Then the girl continued, "But if he sees his shadow, he has to go back in for seven weeks."



Pastor - Bob Northcutt cell: (804) 338-1261
Clerk/Financial Secretary - Melissa Eckerle

Treasurer – Mike Eckerle
Organists - Judy Smith