Grace Presbyterian Church

7434 Bath Street

Springfield, Virginia 22150

**Live-Streamed Worship**

**April 19, 2020**



Greeting

The Lighting of the Peace Candle

Call to Worship (adapted from Beth Merrill Neel)

Leader: Friends, let us worship God today, for God is great ―

People: God has blessed us with life, with faith, and with community.

Leader: Let us worship God today, for God is good ―

People: God forgives us, and encourages us, and loves us.

Leader: Let us worship God today ―

People: Because we are God’s people.

Leader: Let us worship God with thanksgiving and praise!

Hymn #248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

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.

Christ is risen! Raise your sprits 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.

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!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that recent weeks have pressed us to our limit. Surrounded by loss, and fear, and grief, and uncertainty, we at times feel out of control and overwhelmed. Help us, O God, to find release from the fear that grips us and to live with courage and hope. Come to us even amid our doubts, that we may trust in you, encounter your presence, and know we are not alone. Guide us in this time of uncertainty to lean on and live into your promise. Forgive us and strengthen us, for we make our prayer in your name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Take courage and have hope, for we are the children of God’s redeeming love. As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgression from us. We are beloved and forgiven. Live in that truth!

All: Amen.

Children’s Sermon

Scripture Lesson John 20:19-31

Hymn #247 *Now the Green Blade Rises*

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,

Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;

Love lives again, that with the dead has been;

Love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,

Thinking that he would never wake again,

Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;

Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,

He that for three days in the grave had lain;

Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;

Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,

Your touch can call us back to life again;

Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Scripture Lesson Romans 8:35-39

Sermon *Reason To Doubt* Rev. Dr. Ben Trawick

Offering A word about ways to support Grace’s ministry

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

 (Please submit your joys and concerns online.)

Parting Hymn #249 *Because You Live, O Christ*

Because you live, O Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower;

The darkness of the tomb is flooded with your resurrection power.

 (Refrain) *The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!*

*O sing this Easter day, for Jesus Christ has risen,*

 *has risen, has risen, has risen.*

Because you live, O Christ, the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;

Our cages of despair no longer keep us closed and life-denying.

(Refrain)

Because you live, O Christ, the rainbow of your peace will span creation;

The colors of your love will draw all humankind to adoration.

(Refrain)

Benediction

Response 541 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

The flowers were given by Esther Wade in memory of George Wade.