

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession:

The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were yet sinners, Jesus died for us. But not only that, the proof of God's amazing love is that Jesus rose from the grave for us! In that sure and certain knowledge, let us approach God in faith as we join in the prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess, however, that we remain captive to fear and doubt, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook those in need around us, abuse the earth you created and neglect our own wellbeing. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new so that we may know the joy of abundant life as given to us in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

The psalmist tells us that the Lord our God is good, his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Therefore, believe that in the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven. Amen.

HEARING THE WORD

See the separate pages for the Scripture and Sermon.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer:

We thank you God for this amazing day, when our hearts dance like the shining sun, when all the worlds leaps with life and the great, infinite wonders of the earth shout their "yes!" to you.

We who have seen death, who have heard the story of the cross and sorrowed deep at the sharp agony of the world's pain, we have come to life again in the life of your Son.

With Christ we have been lifted from the nothing of death into your new and unimagined life, where tasting, touching, hearing, seeing and breathing, are more sweet than we had known before and where you are in beauty and in truth. How could we ever doubt you, when today your Spirit makes us dance and shout, in the praise of the Risen One, the one who has defeated death and all the evil power? How could we doubt you, now that our ears are awake and our eyes are opened?

We thank you God for this amazing day, when the evil in us lies down dead, and the good in us is born again. This is the birth day of life and love and goodness. This is the amazing day, when our Savior rose, when the earth released him, when the heavens echoed the praise of earth, on this great day. Alleluia! To our leaping, rising, lively, infinite, God.

We thank you Almighty God for your loving care of us in these troubled times and we ask that you would continue to keep us and our loved ones safe and well for another week. This we pray in the name of our Risen Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, who taught his disciples to pray saying,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven.

As we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
And the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

And now, let us profess what we believe about God, using the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Charge and Benediction: (Imagine me standing in the front of the sanctuary.)

Friends, as you continue practicing physical distancing, know that I am praying for you and hope to see you back in worship soon.

Now, may the grace, mercy and peace
of God the Father,
God the Son and
God the Holy Spirit
be with you and abide with you
This day and forevermore. Amen.

*The majority of the Prayers of the People is inspired by the reading from John and an e. e. cunnings sonnet: "I thank you God for most this amazing day" by Susan Durber, in *For the Love of God, Prayer Handbook 1996* (London: United Reformed Church, 1996).

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Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

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In Ministry Together for the Glory of God

Worship at Home

April 12, 2020 – Easter Sunday

PRAISE AND ADORATION

Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 118:1 & 5-8)

Out of our distress we called on the LORD; the LORD answered us
and set us in a safe place.

With the LORD on our side we will not fear. What can mortals do
to us?

The LORD is on our side to help us; we shall look in triumph on
those who hate us.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to put confidence in
mortals.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love
endures forever!