



The American Church in Paris

**EASTER SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE
12 April 2020**

CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP.

The congregation's spoken words are in **bold**,
and sung words are in ***bold italics***.

PRELUDE

Praise Now the Risen Christ!

Fred Gramann

*Praise now the Risen Christ! Alleluia! For the tomb could not hold him; see, Christ is alive.
I know that my Redeemer lives. All glorious, Risen Christ. Amen.*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GREETING FOR WORSHIP

Doug Fondell

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit calls us

to turn from our fears and failures and open ourselves to faith and hope.

Jesus meets us even among the tombs and all that threatens us

amidst the ambiguities and perplexities of life.

Led by the Spirit,

we question and search.

Jesus meets us and calls us by name

and we hear and ponder the Good News that Christ is risen.

Led by the Spirit,

we dare to rejoice and celebrate the hope of Easter faith.

Led by the Spirit,

we give witness in word and deed to resurrection new life for all creation!

HYMN

This Easter Celebration

tune: AURELIA ("The Church's One Foundation")

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*This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.
We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.
We're distant from our neighbors — from worship leaders, too.
No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.*

*No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.
O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day?
With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place
we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.*

*Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.
Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see —
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.*

*In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:
Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.
Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!
Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.*

*We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.
In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess in this time of confinement and quarantine, we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the daunting reality of death and disease. We are slow to come to you and trust in you, and quick to forget your self-giving love and those who risk their lives to save others. Forgive us and renew our faith and hope in you and your power to make all things new. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and strengthen us for resurrection life...

(prayers of silent confession...)

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved community in Christ, hear and believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous.

For Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

tune: GLORIA PATRI

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scott Herr

RINGING OF BELLS

FIRST READING – I Corinthians 15:1-11

Grant Mongin

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Antiphonal Alleluia

G.F. Handel, arr. P. Liebergen

The Adult Choir and Brass Ensemble Fred Gramann, director

SECOND READING – John 20:1-18

Allison Wheeler

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Easter Faith

Scott Herr

ANTHEM

The Glory of Christ

K. Lee Scott

The American Church Choir and Brass Ensemble
Laurana Mitchelmore, *organ* Fred Gramann, *director*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED BY THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jodi Fondell

**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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

EASTER OFFERING

Victor Greene

DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow *tune: OLD HUNDREDTH*
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
In heav'n above and earth below!
One God, three persons, we adore:
To God be praise forevermore! Amen.***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Victor Greene

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Scott Herr and Doug Fondell

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING IN CHORAL FORM

***From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, in every tongue. Alleluia! (5x)***

The night that Jesus was betrayed
He blessed and broke the loaf and said, ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***
"This is my body here for you,
My gift that frees and makes you new." ***Alleluia! (5x)***

Then Jesus also took the cup,
After those gathered had all supped. ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***
"This is my lifeblood shed for you,
The measure of God's love for you." ***Alleluia! (5x)***

"Do this," He said, "till time shall end,
In mem'ry of your living Friend." ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***
"Meet at my table and record,
The love of your triumphant Lord." ***Alleluia! (5x)***

Jesus your feast we celebrate.

We eat the food you consecrate. Alleluia! Alleluia!

We glimpse that glad eternal feast,

To which you welcome great and least. Alleluia! (5x)

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,

All praise to you let earth accord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You are, while endless ages run,

With Creator and Spirit one. Alleluia! (5x)

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION RESPONSE

Jesus, Remember Me

from Taizé



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.



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THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Praying together)

Glorious Lord of Life, we thank you for the hope that we have in you, not a false optimism or fatalistic realism. In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have revealed the power of your love over even death. And so, we ask that you give us the grace of Easter faith this day. Feed our souls with spiritual food to sustain us through this global crisis. We know that you are sovereign and that you are good. Strengthen us to be people who live with Easter faith and creatively and sacrificially show your love for all people. In Christ, with Christ, through Christ and for Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF FAITH

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

tune: 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!***

***Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!***

***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!***

***Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Amen!***

BENEDICTION

Scott Herr

Wherever you are, remember that you are God's chosen witnesses
to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him.
Set your minds on the things of God and do not be afraid,
for our hope is secure in Christ.

And may God raise you from all that would entomb you.

May you come joyfully alive through Easter faith in the Risen Lord.

And may the Holy Spirit empower us for all that is good and true. Amen.

SENDING SONG

Cornerstone

Morgan, Myrin, Mote, Bradbury, Liljero

Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.

Chorus

Christ alone, Cornerstone;
Weak made strong
In the Savior's love.
Through the storm he is Lord;
Lord of all.

Verse 2

When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil;
My anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus

Verse 3

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found.
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

Chorus (2x)

We welcome you virtually to the American Church in Paris as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ on this Easter morning. It's been said that *Easter is just one big Sunday*, and so we hope that you'll always feel welcome to join us for worship and be reminded of Easter's good news, hope, and new life throughout the year! Please see our website for the latest information and resources as we care for one another and nurture community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**On behalf of all the members,
Council and staff of the American Church in Paris,
we wish you a happy Easter!**



The American Church in Paris

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