

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on Easter Sunday.

Announcements

HYMN Praise God #306

CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]

One: This is the Good News - the light shines in the darkness & the darkness will never overcome it.

All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen.

One: This is the Good News - we are God's people.

All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen.

One: This is the Good News - the grave is empty & Christ is risen.

All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed! Let us worship God with Easter joy!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

O holy One, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death and opened the way to eternal life. The empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death. May all we do may proclaim to the world, "He is risen, indeed!" Through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in your glorious resurrection. Yet we have not lived as Easter people. We are often unsure of your promise, confused about your will, and afraid in the face of danger. Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but we do not recognize your presence. Call us by name, Jesus, that we may know you with confidence. When we fear death, give us courage to confess your Easter victory. When we are distracted by conflicts, keep our focus on your reconciling love. When we are overwhelmed by the power of evil, reveal again your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression. Forgive us our sin and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God invites us to choose life and find the blessing that comes from following God's ways. Accept God's gift of forgiveness and choose new life. Forgive one another and discover the peace of Christ. Amen.

¹ PCC Worship Planner

May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn This is the day

#78

To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination and Scripture

Spirit of power and new possibility, open our minds to understanding, our hearts to loving, and our wills to carrying out the mission of the Risen Christ, who is God's Living Word.

Amen.

Scripture

Tanakh **Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

[B#565/W#625]

Historical **Acts 10:34-43**

[B#129/W#134]

Gospel **John 20:1-18**

[B#114/W#119]

May God bless our understanding of this, God's holy word. **The word of the Lord.**

Message

O holy One, by the power of your Holy Spirit at work in the word read and proclaimed, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you.

Amen.

Early on the first day of the week, the disciples went to the tomb where he had been buried. They found the stone rolled away and the tomb was empty. Friends, we gather here as Christ's disciples, on the first day of the week, to celebrate the good news of the gospel: Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!

Swiss theological giant Karl Barth said that what brings people to worship—not just on Easter, but any day—is an unspoken question clinging to their hearts and minds, and that question ... "Is it true?" Is it true that God lives and gives us life? Is it true that God established the laws of nature, and God raised Jesus from the dead? Is it true that the extra-ordinary happened on that morning and that we can only rebuild our lives on its foundation? There is something in the Easter story that reaches the deepest part of our hearts and minds, where both doubt and faith are found. In the resurrection God gave us such a miracle of love and forgiveness ... it is worthy of faith and somehow stirs doubt.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 [B#565/W#625]

In this morning's psalm ... the psalmist is filled with a sense of joy grounded in gratitude. It is a song of deliverance, with a theme that is both ancient and current. Today this psalm helps as we look to the many challenges facing our communities of faith. The psalmist wants us to know that God provides the transformative power of divine grace to live in us and in this world.

God's mysterious power embraces us and sets us on a path in life. The term metanoia describes a new understanding, a shift in perspective. A new way of understanding that we are accountable for living in a transformed way. It is a shift in focus, a shift away from that which serves the individual personal gain. We are turned outward - to serve others, to serve God...and in doing so, we are freed from ourselves. We find ourselves turned from inward-serving to outward-serving. In doing so, we discover that we share our hope with others.

In our reading from the book of Acts, the apostle Peter realized an essential truth that creates a struggle for many people ... God does not show partiality or favor.

Acts 10:34-43 [B#129/W#134]

God offers restoration and salvation to all people. For Peter, this is a new understanding and it continues to be surprising for many. We discover that this universal love of all people is present throughout the scriptures. God's covenant with Abraham includes a promise of God's blessing to all nations.

The news of God's impartial love extends out to us, for we are called to love as God loves. This divinely inspired love is the focus of the "good news of peace through Jesus Christ" evident throughout the books and letters of the New Testament. This message reaches out to us from the gospel of John when Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty with its stone rolled away.

John 20:1-18 [B#114/W#119]

Mary ran to share the news. There is a sense of urgency. When the beloved disciple heard the news, he raced to the tomb with Peter. This is the same disciple who stayed to the end of the crucifixion. We know people like this today, indeed, the church needs this to thrive. The people who see potential and possibility where others see barriers, damage, and more work. Although the optimism can be challenging, we may secretly

cheer for them and draw strength for our faith journeys. They seem to have an unwavering trust that God will provide goodness, even out of a crucifixion.

Peter had just spent the last few days running away from Jesus. Here he ran toward the possibility ... perhaps with hopeful anticipation. He had been with the other disciples when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Could it be possible that the same thing happened with Jesus?

Many of us live with Peter in these complex, conflicting emotions. We promise ourselves that we will not fall away from whatever God has given us to do, but when we are threatened or face significant obstacles, we question our faith. Our memory holds the remarkable and life-giving moments that nourish our faith and we run to see if it might happen again. We are eager for new life even with conflicting thoughts and emotions.

In "Surviving Crucifixion" Barbara Brown Taylor wrote, "The truth of the matter, for me, is that resurrection is nothing any of us has ever seen or experienced for ourselves. Near-death experiences, yes; ghostly visitations, yes; but none of us knows firsthand what it is like to be resurrected from the dead." She continues with, "According to the Bible, God set it up that way. Hundreds of people witnessed Jesus' crucifixion, but not one living soul was there when he was raised from the dead. The women saw him afterward, when he was back on his feet, and his disciples saw him after that, although not for long, but no one was allowed the privilege of seeing him come back to life. So none of us should feel too badly about finding it hard to believe. Resurrection is not something we can test, like gravity or true north."

John wrote that when Mary returned to the tomb to mourn the loss of Jesus, two angels spoke to her from the tomb. When she turned from them, she found the gardener beside her. Mary looked at the gardener, listened to him, and did not recognize him. Then, with her back to him, he spoke her name. The sound of his voice helped her to see him. He spoke her name. I wonder how we might be like Mary. We long to be known by God—to be held in God's gaze, to be seen as the object of God's love and care. We want to be seen for who we are in our lives, our bodies, our histories, our dreams, and our losses. When Jesus said, "Mary," his words travel toward the spiritual, emotional, and physical aspects of her. We hear Christ when he speaks to us through her. God comes to

us in the deeply personal way by speaking of our name. Jesus comes to us as a presence that reaches beyond our intellectual knowing. He touches our lives in ways we cannot see.

What does this mean? In part, that we are called to recognize that Jesus comes to us through our senses. We nurture this connection when we join with others in faith. It is within community that the physical, emotional, and communal aspects are experienced. It is in the taste of communion elements, in the familiar hymn that stirs us, in the feel of the Bible and the hymnal in our hands, and with the support given and received.

Jesus appointed Mary to go out and tell others what she has experienced. Although she wanted to stay with him, Mary obeyed the risen Christ. She went out from the garden and told the other disciples what had happened. Jesus the Christ had risen. Mary went out to live in His way and to share what she knew to be true. We continue her work today in the ways in which we follow in the ways of Christ. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

Hymn **Thine be the glory** **#258**

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

Quote Our gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is followed by our awe at God's astonishing gift of new life in the resurrection. Rev Dr Christine Chakoian, Westwood Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have abundantly received, we bring our offerings of time, talent, and financial resources to share with gladness and gratitude. As we present our gifts to God this morning, may our generosity reflect God's goodness, and the hope we have in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord.

Doxology We give Thee but Thine own, What e'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

Invitation to the Table

We come to the table to remember our past, to be here in our present, and to be mindful of our future with Christ. We remember Jesus declared that people will come from east and west and north and south to sit at the table in God's kingdom.

Friends in Christ, this is a time to re-form our relationship with God and to be re-formed by God's strength and grace. This meal is the gift of that strength and grace. It comes not as a whole loaf and bottle for each one to take away and relish in private. It comes in broken pieces and sips shared. We are reminded that there will always be enough for everyone who seeks a place at this table. So come, you who have much faith and you who

have a little, you who have been here often and you who cannot recall this place. Our Saviour invites all people to share this feast as a foretaste of his kingdom. Remember – the Risen Christ has spread this joyful feast for you. Taste and see that God is good.

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed [in unison] **#539**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Story of the Table

When we gather at this table, we remember how this meal began, how it has promised hope and new life to those who follow Jesus from one generation to the next. We remember bread and wine shared around a table the night Jesus was arrested.

Today we remember the first Easter day. The day Angels appeared in the cave. The day Jesus appeared in the garden. As we break this bread and share this cup in the name of our Risen Lord, may our eyes be opened to recognize Jesus, present with us here. May our spirits be refreshed to face our future in hope. And as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us also bless God for what we are about receive.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving [responsive] **#564**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy One, on this joyful Easter day, we offer our gratitude and praise with hearts full of love, for we have seen your grace and power, rolling away the stone of sorrow and despair, bursting from the tomb in the gift of new life. And so we join our voices with all your creatures, high and low, with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on earth, to celebrate your resurrecting power. Therefore, with choirs of angels and archangels and with those of every time and place, we give you praise and glory. We join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Receive our praise and joy this day, O Christ. Your resurrection promises that there are new possibilities for us and our weary world. Even when we falter in discouragement, even if we hesitate at the news that your great love has come back to embrace us, You will not let us go.

You call us by name to assure us of your love. You open your arms to welcome us back to your side. You spread this table for us, offering us not only the bread and wine, but your very self, present with us here and everywhere.

In joyful anticipation of sharing these gifts, we proclaim our faith And so, remembering Christ's life, love, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us, breathe upon us now and upon this bread and wine. May they be for us Christ's body and blood, gifts of new life, with the power to make us whole. As this bread and wine become a part of us, may we become a part of you, Jesus, united with you and with each other in love. Dare us to live for justice and joy, trusting that all things will work together for good through the power of love that raised you from the dead, the power of the love we share in your name. And all the people say,
Amen

We boldly lift our voices to pray: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallow'ed 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Words of Institution and Invitation

Jesus, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said,

'This is my body, which is for you: do this in remembrance of me.' [eat]

In the same way, he took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood: as often as you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.' [drink]

We break this bread, the communion in Christ's body once broken. We drink this cup, communion in Christ's blood once shed. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us and we praise you for breaking into the world. Send us out in peace for we have seen, have heard, and been fed by your grace. Keep us faithful and alert for signs of Christ's coming and lead us to live lives marked by truth and light.

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

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We are grateful for the gifts you have shared with us. Send us out in the strength of the Holy Spirit, unafraid of the cost to us. Giving, life-giving God, with our gifts this day, receive our thanks and praise for the hope rising within us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Bless the gifts we offer with your Holy Spirit so that they will bring hope to raise the hearts of those to whom we reach out in Jesus' holy name.

O God of the bruised and broken, we are grateful that, in Christ, you have taken up the cross and know by heart all that causes suffering and pain. We pray today for all those in need of healing and comfort, whatever the source of their pain.

Before we call, you answer, God. Before we speak, you know our voices. Hear our prayers. Loving God, by your Spirit, surround us with strength and love. Equip us to offer support for those who are near to us. O God of the lonely and sorrowing, in Christ you experienced the loss we know when loved ones die and the pain of betrayal by friends. We remember before you those who grieve the loss of their beloved and those who are lonely.

God of light and love, draw near to those who must confront illness, loss or changing circumstances. We are thankful for healing and we are thankful for the end of suffering. God of compassion, we lift up families who travel the long journey of grief. May their memories be a blessing. We ask you to linger with all who mourn Ruth; Lyle; and Danielle.

God of hope, we ask you to linger with all who are dealing with health challenges: Brian; Stephani, Judith & Gerry; Carter, Jim & family; Rob, Valerie, Jim & Jane; Carl; Betty Lou; Ruth; Rudy, Audrey, & Grace; and, Warren & Lori.

We lift up all who are on our hearts as they face immense challenges. O God of hope and new possibility, in Christ you opened the way into the future for us through the power of your redeeming love. Give us the courage we need to face our future, assured of your presence and power to sustain us. We offer all that we are and all that we hope for through Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymn Now Let Us From This Table Rise

#556

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

Fulfill your holy calling by serving God and neighbor. And, hope always in God, through whom all things are possible. Go now ... with wonder at the empty tomb ... with the joy Mary felt in the garden ... with the disciples' hope that Jesus had risen. May God's resurrecting love open the future for you, empowered by the Spirit and embraced by Jesus Christ. Now and forevermore. Amen

Postlude Amen

64 Be still and know

Be still and that I am God x3

I am the Lord that health thee x3

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust x 3

306 Praise God

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures high and low;

Praise God in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

556 Now let us from this Table Rise

Now let us from this table rise Renewed in body, mind and soul; With Christ we die and live again, Whose selfless love has made us whole.

With minds alert, upheld by grace, To spread the Word in speech and deed, We follow in the steps of Christ, At one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love, It is the sacrament of care; The work that Christ began to do We humbly pledge ourselves to share.

Then give us grace, companion-God, To choose again the pilgrim way, And help us to accept with joy The challenge of tomorrow's day.

78 This is the day

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Open to us, open to us the gates of God, the gates of God; we will go in, we will go in and praise the Lord, and praise the Lord. Open to us the gates of God; we will go in and praise the Lord. Open to us, open to us the gates of God.

You are our God, you are our God; we will praise your name, we will praise your name; we will give thanks, we will give thanks for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness. You are our God, we will praise your name; we will give thanks for your faithfulness. You are our God, you are our God; we will praise your name.

250 I danced in the morning

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; They came with me and the dance went on. **Refrain**

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame: The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, And they left me there on a cross to die. **Refrain**

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the devil on your back. They buried my body, and they thought I'd gone, But I am the dance, and I still go on. **Refrain**

They cut me down and I leap up high; I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. **Refrain**

258 Thine be the glory

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son, Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won; Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, Kept the folded grave clothes, where thy body lay.

Refrain Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son; Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom; Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, For her Lord now liveth; death hast lost its sting. **Refrain**

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life; Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife; Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love: Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. **Refrain**