

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause!

You set me free when I am in distress;

Be gracious and hear my prayer.

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;

When I cry out, God will hear me.

Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!"

Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

You put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

I will lie down and sleep in peace; you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Let us worship God.

*OPENING PRAYER

Lord of life, submitting to death, you conquered the grave. By being lifted on a cross, you draw all peoples to you. By being raised from the dead, you restore to humanity all that we had lost through sin. Throughout these fifty days of Easter we proclaim the marvelous mystery of death and resurrection. For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity. **Amen.**

WELCOME

*HYMN # 108

Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Psalm 4

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

GOODNESS IS STRONGER

Goodness is Stronger than Evil

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;

light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.

Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word, that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19 (p. 120, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7 (p. 240, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 36b-48 (p. 91, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

*HYMN (see insert)

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

We Are One in the Spirit

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Once Again

M. Redman

*DOXOLOGY

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

EASTER HYMN

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

(see insert)

SENDING

*HYMN #105

Because you live, O Christ

VRUECHTEN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



ORDER OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 15, 2018
Presbyterian Church in Needham