



April 17, 2022 • 6:50 A.M.
Bethpage Presbyterian Church Cemetery

PRELUDE

**CALL TO WORSHIP*

Jesus Christ has risen.

The stone was rolled away.

The tomb is empty.

Christ is alive!

Rejoice in his resurrection.

Sin is destroyed.

Death is defeated.

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

**HYMN*

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

**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 heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new life, we come before you confessing our sin. We have forgotten who you are. We have turned away from what is right and good. We have embraced the sentimentality of our faith and disregarded your demands for justice. We focus on the miracle of the empty tomb rather than on the new life our faith demands of us. We set our minds on things of the earth rather than on your will. O God, we do not want to continue in our destructive ways. Grant that we may see and believe the fullness of life you intend for us. Strengthen us to live as a resurrection people. Gracious God, have mercy on us and hear our silent prayers . . . *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

**PRAYER IN SONG "Breathe on Me Breath of God"*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS*

God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

God makes all things new.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

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Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 25:6-9

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 27:62 – 28:15

MEDITATION

"More Than Signs"

Rev. Valerie Hicks

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in an astounding God, who surprises us on Easter morning, who reveals through an empty tomb God's great love for us. We believe in God, who is light in the darkness, who is always working for good, who calls us to be more than we are. We believe in God who relentlessly transforms our tears into alleluias.

We believe in the Christ, present in the creation, heard in the words of prophets, born as the Messiah, and alive in the lessons taught to disciples. Christ was nailed to cross but is not buried in the past. He is alive forever more, walking with us on our journeys today.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the invisible presence of God, the joy, hope, and peace of possibilities opening all around us. We believe the Spirit calls us to community, to compassion, to hospitality, and to acts of mercy and justice. We are a people of faith in the risen Christ, and we strive to live in such a way that the world will see Christ rising again, in us and through us. God cannot be contained; not by books, not by traditions, not by institutions, and not by tombs. God lives. Christ is risen. Alleluia and Amen!

**HYMN*

"Christ Has Risen"

**Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!**

**Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all those lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been
evidence of transformation**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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*An asterisk indicates that all who are able may stand.

Please join us for our fellowship breakfast following the Sunrise Service. Also, we invite our visitors to join us for our Easter Day Worship Service, which will be held at 10:00 AM in the Church Sanctuary. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this service. If you are visiting with us today and would like more information about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our elders.

Bethpage Presbyterian Church

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