

**First Presbyterian Church of Niles Morning Worship**

**10:00 A.M.**

**April 14, 2024**

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(\* = stand if you are able)

**PRELUDE**

**REFLECTION TEXT**                      Psalm 4: 1-3

Answer me when I cry out, my righteous God! Set me free from my troubles!  
Have mercy on me! Listen to my prayer! How long, you people will my reputation  
be insulted. How long will you continue to love what is worthless and go after  
lies? Know this: the Lord takes personal care of the faithful. The Lord will hear  
me when I cry out to him.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**                      *Air in Italian Style*                      Pasquet

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive)

The Lord hears us when we call:

**Come, let us put our trust in God.**

The Lord fills our hearts with gladness:

**Come, let us sing God's praises with shouts of joy!**

The Lord grants peace to our weary souls:

**Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God's grace.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**\*HYMN 246**                                      *Christ is Alive!*                                      TRURO

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
But saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
And find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
Till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

Risen Christ, we are often troubled by our doubts. But you are not troubled by them. You do not require perfect understanding. Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again that we might come to know you. Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck, when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do. Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us. Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide it, when we fail to offer it to others. Renew us and make us whole that in this world of strife we may be bearers of your peace. In resurrection hope we pray, Amen.

**MOMENT OF SILENT AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (Responsive)

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are”. Children of God, we are claimed by God, forgiven of our sins, and set free for love. In Jesus name you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE 240** (Vs. 2)      *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*      ALLELUIA NO. 1  
(*refrain*)      Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

Spread the good news o’er all the earth;  
Jesus has died and has risen. (**refrain**)

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**      Acts 3: 12-19

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      *Canon of Praise*      Arr. Wagner  
Heaven and earth, rejoice and sing: “Holy, Holy, to the King. Glory, honor, adoration, Alleluia, praises we bring.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**      Luke 24: 36-48

**MESSAGE**      *Embracing God’s Peace*      Rev. Christopher Mergener

**\*HYMN 661**      *His Eye is on the Sparrow*      SPARROW  
Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:

**Refrain:** His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me;

His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me,  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free  
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,  
And resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see: **Refrain**

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to him; from care he sets me free:

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (In Unison) (Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39)

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

## **INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS**

### **Litany of Ministry (Responsive)**

- L: There are varieties of gifts,  
**A: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.**
- L: There are different ways of serving God,  
**A: but it is the same Lord who is served.**
- L: God works through each person in a unique way,  
**A: but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.**
- L: To each is given a gift of the Spirit  
**A: to be used for the common good.**
- L: Together we are the body of Christ,  
**A: and individually members of it.**

### **Presentation of the Elders and Deacons**

### **Constitutional Questions to the Officers-Elect**

### **Constitutional Questions to the Congregation**

### **Prayer**

### **Laying on of hands**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

Offertory

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

Arr. Tournquist

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Easter Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Let trumpets sound and voices sing! Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death and given life eternal breath. Amen

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**PREPARATION FOR PRAYERS** *Jesus – The Very Thought to Me* ST. AGNES

Jesus the very thought to me with sweetness fills my breast;  
But sweeter far your face to see, and in your presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the memory find  
A sweeter sound than your blessed name, Savior of humankind.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Responsive: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER (In Unison)**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 549**

*May the Love of the Lord*

SOON TI

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.  
May God’s love dwell in you, throughout every day.  
May God’s countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
May God’s Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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