

# Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor

Beverly Owens, Music Director

Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education

Amy Shortt, Organist

David Shedden, Seminary Intern

Cecelia B. Hodges, Verse Speaking Choir Director

James Frederick, Lector

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April 8, 2007

10:00 a.m.

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## Resurrection Sunday

*Enter Reverently, Meditate Quietly, Worship Devoutly,  
Leave Gratefully, Serve Christ Faithfully*

### PRELUDE

### INTROIT

*Total Praise*

Smallwood

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### CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Isaiah 65:17-25)

Leader: Be glad and rejoice in what God is creating – a new heaven and a new earth.

**People: The promise of joy and gladness for all people.**

Leader: The promise of Eden restored, where every living creature lives in harmony.

**People: Promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who died to defeat evil, and rose to give us life.**

Leader: So let us be glad and rejoice in what God has created in us – new life – the life of the risen Christ.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

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### \*OPENING HYMN

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

#123

## THE SYMBOLS OF THE RESURRECTION

### THE SHROUD

Leader: This reminds us of the cloth in which they wrapped the body of Jesus. On Easter morning it was found empty, lying in the tomb where Christ's body had been placed. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

## THE FRAGRANT OIL

Leader: This fragrance reminds us that very early on Easter Day some women came to the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for proper burial. The women were the first to hear of Jesus' resurrection. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

## THE STONE

Leader: This reminds us that on the resurrection morning, the stone which sealed the tomb was rolled away. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

## THE BREAD

Leader: This reminds us that on the first Easter evening, Jesus walked and talked with two of his followers on the road to Emmaus. It was not until he broke bread with them that they recognized who he was. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

## THE WINE

Leader: This wine, representing Christ's blood, helps us to remember that Jesus died for us. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

## THE CROSS

Leader: The cross you see is an empty cross. Jesus is not dead. He is risen. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

## THE CANDLE

Leader: This candle reminds us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

## \* HYMN

*Thine Is the Glory*

#122

## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND PRAISE

Leader: Yours is the glory, O God, for raising Jesus from the darkness of death.

**People: Yours is the glory, O Christ, for being prepared, through your sacrificial love, to conquer death and give us the gift of eternal life.**

Leader: And, as if that were not enough, you greet us by name, as you greeted Mary in the garden and transform our lives forever with your Easter life.

**People: Risen Lord, we worship and adore you.**

Leader: We pray that the Holy Spirit, your life in us, will so conform us to your image that we radiate your glory here, through our rejoicing and praise,

and in all the places where people's lives are still affected by the powers of sin and death.

**People:** **Yours is the glory, risen Lord Jesus, and we rejoice that "endless is the victory that you over death have won."**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*All: Christ is risen indeed! Amen!*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God of love, like the first witnesses of the resurrection, we too come to the empty tomb with a variety of responses. We hear the good news that Jesus has risen, but so often the evidence for this is difficult to detect in our lives.

**People: Forgive us when we fail to make the risen Christ evident through our words, our actions and our lives.**

Leader: For so many people, the only good news of this weekend is that it provides the opportunity for a holiday in pleasant spring weather.

**People: Forgive us if we feel that this time of worship is an interruption to our planned holiday activities.**

Leader: As we come to the empty tomb seeking forgiveness for all our faults and shortcomings, help us to reorder our priorities so that we put the risen Christ first in our lives at all times.

**People: Forgive us when we forget that the tomb is forever empty because Jesus is here and is wherever Christians live and worship.**

Leader: Help us always to remember the costly act of Jesus Christ which led to victory over sin and death, an act which gives us the gift of a new beginning – guilt free and graced by love. The tomb is empty because Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!**

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

**Congregational Response (Sung):**

#106

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His Name.  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation.**

**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.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His Name.**

Words and music by Donald Fishel; arr. Betty Pulkingham and Donald Fishel. © 1973 *The Word of God*. Harmony and descant: © 1979 *Celebration and Word of God Music*. CCLI# 498673

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: *Jesus is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name (Acts 10:42b-43). Hear, believe, and live the good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\*GLORIA PATRI (kids' pink page) #579

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace!

READING *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing* Verse Speaking Choir

\*HYMN *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* #106 (vv. 3-4)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 24:1-12 Page 90  
Ryan Velez

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**(\*\*Students in grades 1-6 are dismissed for their Bible classes.\*\*)**

SPECIAL MUSIC *My Eternal King* Marshall

SERMON *Easter Christians in a Good Friday World* Rev. Muriel Burrows

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (kids' orange page)

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* Page 14

TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.*

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page) #592

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: Loving God, we thank you for this Easter Day – with its promise of new life, and new opportunities. Use us and our gifts, to love and**

serve you, and to witness to Christ whom you have raised, and in whose name we pray. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN                      *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*                      #104

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION              *Christ, We Do All Adore Thee*                      Dubois

\* Congregation stands  
\*\* Latecomers ushered in

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**WELCOME** - The Pastor, Elders and Deacons of Witherspoon welcome most warmly all worshipers. Our fellowship is enriched by your presence. If you do not have a church home of your own, we do sincerely invite you to be a part of our fellowship. Please contact the church office for further information if you are interested in church membership (609-924-1666 or witherspoon@verizon.net).



**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGE GROUPS!** Adults will meet on their own schedule each month in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. Sunday school classes for students in grades 1-6 will commence following the children's message. (A nursery is available for children in preschool and kindergarten.)

**NURSERY CARE** is provided for children 0-5 beginning at 9:45 a.m. Today Elizabeth Ferguson is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Anne Blackwood-Chirchir.

**FLOWERS** - If you would like to provide flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or simply to beautify the church, please sign up on the chart located on the door of the sound room (left-hand entrance from the sanctuary to the parish house). After worship service, the donor may take the flowers home. At present, it is the responsibility of the person giving the flowers to make his/her own arrangements for preparation and delivery of the flowers for the Chancel. The next available date is April 15.

**USHERS** for this morning's service are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Cortné Edmonds and Joshua McGriff, with David McGriff, manager. Next week's ushers are Audi and Michelle Peal.



**COFFEE HOUR** - Please join us for a Coffee Hour hosted by the Deacon Board in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of April is Valerie Smith. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Valerie (609-799-1817).

**ATTENDANCE** at the service of April 1 was 120.

**LECTIONARY TEXT** for next Sunday, April 15, is Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** – Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through *One Great Hour of Sharing* to share God's love with people experiencing need. These gifts provided aid in times of disaster, new opportunities for the hungry to feed themselves, hope and healing to people experiencing the hardship of war, and promise to those who found a new livelihood. (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance receives 36%; Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program each receives 32%.) The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly. Witherspoon will take the *One Great Hour of Sharing* contribution **today**. Offering envelopes to be used for this purpose are in this bulletin.



**FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY** – The Deacons are collecting nourishing food for the Crisis Ministry. **\*\*\*NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.\*\*\*** Checks made payable to the Crisis Ministry are always welcome and may be placed in the offering plate or given to a deacon. Please consider an extra purchase during your next grocery shopping trip and place items in the wooden box in the Narthex.



Trenton Area  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK WEEK** – Our Habitat for Humanity project needs your help. To participate, please contact Meg Coghlan (609-651-2945 or meg\_coghlan@yahoo.com).



**PAUL ROBESON LECTURE SERIES** – April is the month of Paul Robeson's birth. In celebration and recognition of this event, Giles R. Wright, Director of the Afro-American History Program, New Jersey Historical Commission, will present a three-part lecture series for the Princeton community on the life and legacy of Paul Robeson. The lectures titled, *Paul Robeson: A Portrait*, will be presented at 3:00 p.m. on **April 15, 22, and 29** at the Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding (86 Olden Street, Princeton). This free program is sponsored by WSPC and Nassau Church Partners in Faith Committee. Contact the church office (609-924-1666 or witherspoon@verizon.net) for details.

# Footprints Walk



**WALK FOR THE CRISIS MINISTRY** – We hope to send a team on the annual *Footprints Walk* on **Saturday, April 21**. The aim is to raise as much money as possible to help the work of The Crisis Ministry. The Crisis

Ministry is facing cuts in its funding this year, so every dollar will make a difference. The event begins at 8.30 a.m. with registration. The walk starts at Kingston Tow Path, on Route 27, up to Harrison Street and then back to Route 27. The entire walk is just over five miles. If you want to join the WSPC team, please contact David Shedden (david.shedden@ptsem.edu) or the church office. This will be a great opportunity to spend some time with other church family members. If you are unable to walk on that day, why not sponsor the team so we can raise as much money as possible?



**OFFICE HOURS** - The church secretary must report for possible jury duty **this week**. If selected to serve on a jury, I will not be in the office during regular office hours; however, I will work from home and come into the office as necessary. I will check the church e-mail and voice mail for messages. Thanks for your patience at this time.