



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Christ is Risen

April 4, 2021

WELCOME, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.¹ This doesn't mean you have to do them alone. You can invite those who live with you, or connect with others through the phone or computer, or even in small groups outside.

If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca).



P Rombeek

Contacts

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¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.

Announcements

Communion: is this week. All who want to know God better are welcome to participate, but you'll need to provide your own elements.

Sunday School Special: You are invited to join Antoinette at noon for crafts, stories & social time. Please contact her for details.

Annual Meeting: April 11th

We will be holding it over Zoom. The details will be emailed out to those who normally receive emails. If you are not on this list and would like the details, please contact the office or Rev Peter.

Reports will be available next Friday, and emailed out to those on our list. If you would like a print copy please let the office know.

Book Study: *The Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren
Ines found this to be a very helpful book when she went through it a couple of years ago looking at God in ordinary things. She would like to explore it again with you. If you are interested, please contact her at Books@kensingtonchurch.ca

Prayer Group: will be meeting through Zoom on Wed. at 11:30 a.m.
If you would like to pray at a different time, please contact Peter.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09>

or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

Passcode: 7864826

Visiting: The government considers ministers to be essential workers. If you need a visit, please contact Rev. Peter.

Live Worship: After Montréal is no longer a Red Zone, Session will reconsider when we feel it is safe to open. If you would like the Zoom information (or to practice), please contact Peter.



Approaching God



women at the tomb - Bryans

Uncovering the Table

On day one, Friday, Jesus died. As we buried Jesus on Friday, we covered the Lord's Table.

On day two, Saturday, those who believed were lost. They didn't know what to believe. Where was their future now? Where was there hope?

Now, it is the third day. The women go to the tomb to show their respect for their teacher and friend... and the tomb is uncovered. [table uncovered]

And so begins the greeting Christians around the world say today.

Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed!



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

 Call to worship (which is from the PWS&D (Presbyterian World Service and Development) and is being used by congregations across Canada)

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

He was dead and now he lives.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

The tomb is empty.

He was dead and now he lives.

The journey begins again

Come, let us follow him.

And let us start the new journey with prayer:

God of life, you came to us and you redeem all things.

And now we give ourselves to you and continue

your work of good news and reconciliation in the world.

Give us the strength to follow you on the mission

you have called us to.

In the name of

Jesus we pray,

Amen.

♪ Hymn: I danced in the morning.....pg 12 (250)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEAIJV6CmtA

 Prayer of Confession²

Let us open our lives to God and ask for forgiveness and grace:

On those times when we have kept your resurrection
as a past event rather than a present action:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy

² by Rev David Hamflett from *Fire & Bread*. Wild Goose Publ



Listening to God

Prayer for Illumination

God of life,
 your Spirit raised Jesus from dead.
 Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture.
 Your Spirit draws us to Christ
 and helps us to acknowledge him as Lord.
 We ask that you will send your Spirit now
 to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope
 through the proclamation of the Easter gospel.
 Amen.⁴



the holy women at the tomb - William Bouguereau

⁴ Worship Sourcebook N.3.1.1

On those times when we have been
 blind to your presence around us:
 Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy

On those times when we have failed to live
 as those who have risen with Christ:
 Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy

To all who turn to him, Christ says, *'Your sins are forgiven.'*
 He also said, *'Come, follow me.'*

Thanks be to God

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Know the Good news through Paul's letter to the Corinthians

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory,

Where, o death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin,

but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory

through our Lord Jesus Christ.³

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today.....pg 13 (243)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6sj9ljVsfk

³ 1 Corinthians 15: 54-57

✦ Intro to the readings

- psalm 118 - yup, the lectionary has it two weeks in a row... and it's still good.
- This passage from Isaiah is often used at funerals; it's appropriate here too.
- The Gospel According to Mark is an interesting one. It's the shortest. Most scholars think it's the oldest (about 30 years after Jesus' resurrection). The writing skills are not so good... or very postmodern (we don't notice this in the English because the translators usually correct the grammar mistakes). For most of history it was ignored in favour of the other Gospels.

And then there's the ending. If you read the entire last chapter it'll be a bit odd. For one thing, the grammar gets better. Another is that the early sources we have don't have it all. The thinking is that there's the earliest ending... and then a shorter one was added (an extended verse 8)... and then another longer one (verses 9-20).

Today we're going to stick to the earliest, and shortest, ending.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible, or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

[Mark 16: 1-8](#)

[Isaiah 25: 6-9](#)

[Psalm 118: 1, 4, 14-24](#)

✦ Sermon: Endings

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁵ Amen.

5 Psalm 19:14

What did you think of the Gospel ending?

Was it satisfying?

It's a far cry from most stories I read, where everyone reaches some sort of stability in their lives and you can see where they're going. Sometimes there's even little bios or an epilogue letting you see them several years later.

Mark, though, just stops.

The Greek even seems to stop mid-sentence, ending with a 'because' or 'however'... but then nothing.

It's messy;
it's inconclusive.

It's like life.

messy,
with disruptions
with the unexpected.

Take the past year for example... or just the past week. We heard from the Premier that we could allow up to 250 people in worship spaces... and the next day that there was a 3rd wave of the virus and that things were getting worse. We were asked not to get together - especially inside.

Life is messy;
and so is this ending.

The women have a plan.

Their life may have been turned upside-down, but there is a routine; there is something normal that can be brought to this time. After someone dies it is customary to show your respect for them by anointing the body. They buy the spices and go to anoint the body.

As they approach, the women are concerned with details that seem insurmountable. “Who will roll away the stone for us?” It’s a good question. Thankfully, they weren’t afraid to start out before solving it, because God looked after the details.

I wonder how many times we get too wrapped up in details when we should turn them over to God. How often do we not get started...

As for their attempt to find stability in something ordinary... it’s disrupted.

It’s not the first time Jesus has done this. In fact, it happens a lot. Take the story about the woman who lost the coin and celebrates when finding it. This ordinary event, Jesus said, is like the Kingdom of God. And then there was the Seder they celebrated just four days ago. Jesus took ordinary, familiar, parts of the celebration and made them more special. He infused them with himself. He took and broke the bread ...and then added, “*Take; this is my body.*” When he lifted the cup he said, “*This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.*” Jesus brought God into everything.

And now this.

They come to anoint the body. They try to ground themselves in something routine, something ordinary, something familiar. What can be more certain than a dead body? ...except it’s gone.

Again, God breaks into the expected - the ordinary.

Can we be grounded with God around?

Then they see for themselves what Jesus had said would happen... and are reminded again just in case. Before they can

regain their balance, they are told to go and tell their friends the Good News.

...except they don’t.

We are told they said nothing to no-one because they were afraid. It’s surprising. Women in this Gospel are usually the good examples of faith, but here, even they succumb.

It can be hard to share the Good News. I expect those who first saw and heard were afraid of being mocked, laughed at, ...maybe even shut out of their community and friends. Would people whisper about them, or treat them differently?

How do you feel about talking about Jesus?

Thankfully somebody told, otherwise we’d never know the story. I wonder what changed their mind?

But we don’t know. That’s not the ending we have here. Instead the disciples (plus Peter) are told to return to Galilee - to the place it all began. When they return home, they will find Jesus already there. Do they go?

Well, yes. We know from other stories, they will do what Jesus did. Back in chapter one, Mark tells us what Jesus did after being baptized and tempted. “*Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.*” The disciples (including women) share The good news.

But we’re not given that here.

Here the words stop before the story is done;

which, perhaps, is the point.

We have to continue it.

We’ve been drawn along. Pulled into this story as it hurries along - going immediately from one thing to another.

And if we’re not sure where to start. Well, we could take the

advice the women are given. Look at what you've seen. Listen to what other's have experienced. Go to your friends and share the news. Go home... not to stop, but to look for Jesus.

And be aware, God has a tendency to transform the ordinary. It may not help you be grounded, but it can help us all to fly.

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*



Sharon Helleman

Responding to God

FaithTalk

These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

- Action: Eat some Easter goodies and thank God.
- Memories: Share an Easter memory (church, sunday school, song, hymn, clothes, meal, family)?
What can you do this Easter to create a good memory?
- Wonder: Come up with your ending for the gospel?
- Wonder: Consider what might have changed the women's minds. Why did they tell their story?
- Values: What do find is 'good news' about the Easter story?
- Actions: Practice sharing this good news with each other... and maybe someone else when they ask what you did on the weekend.

Spirit Sighting

Presbyterian Sharing and the Presbyterian World Service and Development are two ways that God's Spirit is working in the world. You can read more on page 11.

Offering

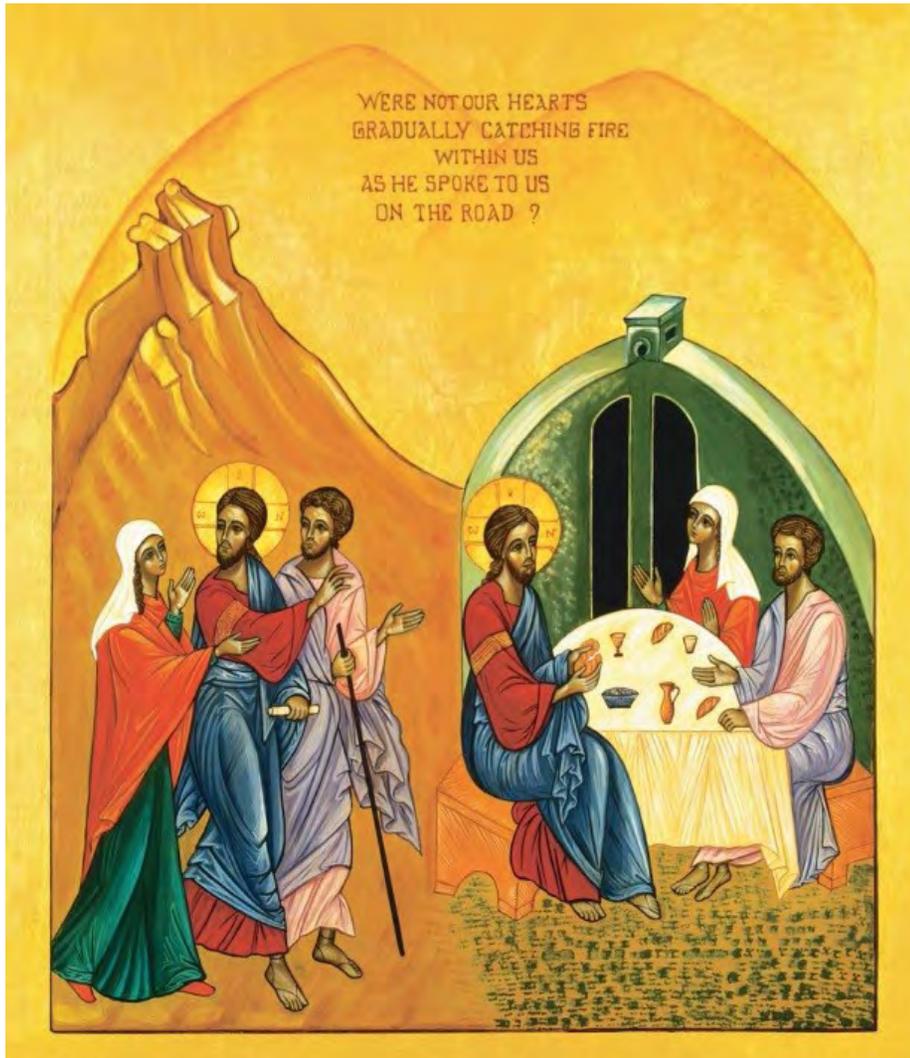
Financially, we have set up a donation option on **our website**. Just click the '[Donate Now](#)' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can now donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is [Kensington Presbyterian Church](#) and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.

Communion

♪ Hymn: For the bread which you have broken.....pg 13 (549)
youtu.be/Z2FZ3_C7P4c?t=46



Supper at Emmaus - Marie-Paul Farran

✦ Invitation to the table

Today we remember that before Jesus knew he would be arrested he shared the Feast of Freedom, the Passover, with his friends ...and betrayers. He took something they ate everyday, he took a feast they celebrate every year, and he turned them into a memory of him and the freedom he offers.

Today we remember that his arrest, injustice, and death are not the end - because through Jesus we can be forgiven our betrayals, our sins, and we know that death is but a door.

We also remember the future vision God gives us through Isaiah. That there will come a time when everyone will be invited to the most amazing picnic with God. Death will be swallowed for ever, and the LORD God will wipe away all tears.⁶

But more than remembering, we also experience the living Christ here in ways that are hard to describe.

You are invited to come to the LORD's table.

Wherever you are, Christ is at table with you.
offering us bread broken for our journeying
and wine poured out for our tears.
In this symbol of the Feast,
where loss finds comfort in promise
and despair is transformed into hope,
we come together.

Whoever you are, whatever your bring,
hear the risen Christ call your name;
and accept God's invitation to new life.⁷

C'est la volonté de Dieu

⁶ Isaiah 25: 6-9

⁷ portions by Jan Berry from *Fire & Bread*. ed Ruth Burgess

que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus
devraient partager ce repas.

As we come together to share the Lord's Supper,
we also come together with a statement of faith that we share with
Christians of many types, around the world and through the
centuries.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.

 Great prayer of thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

With joy, we praise you, gracious God,
because you have created heaven and earth.
While there are times of the year that are dark,
when we feel alone;
isolated by the invisible ways creation is broken.
Creation also reminds us of new life,
Like the crocuses sprouting beside our homes.
Shining with your royal purple in the light of the sun.
Your creation is both terrifying and amazing.
Including us.
We are honoured to be made in your image,
and that you keep covenant with us -
even when we walked our own path,
thinking that we knew better than you.

As we look around, we join with the whole creation
to lift our hearts in joyful praise.⁸

**Holy, Holy , Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We thank you for sticking with us;
for sending us reminders of your love and your way.
for the prophets and preachers

⁸ adapted from Worship Sourcebook N.8.2.2.4

But especially, we thank you for sending Jesus,
who showed us not only the best way to live,
but how much you love us
We thank you that through Jesus
you liberate us from what takes us away from your amazing life.
Because in Jesus' life, and death, and resurrection
we see that you are with us when life is hard
and with us when we are bad
and with us when we're good
and will be with us through death
to eternal life with you.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who by his glorious resurrection
overcame the power of sin and gave us new life.

While we did not see your resurrected body, we have seen you
in situations and people around us.
Despite the difficulty in proving it, for thousands of years people
have believed.
and together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

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

Thank you that your Spirit is continually at work in this world -
moving in all of our lives, bringing healing and drawing us
closer to you.

We pray for:

- those who are feeling alone or disconnected. . .
- those whose health and lives are affected by COVID. . .

- those who suffer from other physical or mental health issues. . .
 - and those who are trying to support others. . .
- And we thank you for turning the ordinary into the holy so that
we are reminded that you are with us - always.

As we share your bread and your cup,
we pray that your Spirit will make them alive
so that we may be closer to you
and be strengthened by you until you come again.

As we prepare to share this symbol of the feast to come, we come
together to say the prayer you teach us:
(feel free to use another version/translation)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**



Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks to God
he broke the bread and shared it, saying

“This is my body; it is broken for you.”

“Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour vous”

[take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said,

“This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood

Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me.”

“Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon (saunt) sang;
faites ceci en mémoire de moi”

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

[take and drink]



Eucharist, Source & Summit - Garcia

Prayer after Communion

Easter God,
you have met us the elements shared today,
offering your peace and joy.
Send us out into the world,
dancing with delight
and with hallelujahs ringing in our hearts,
to share your justice and your praise.
Amen.

✦ Dance: While this is not the reaction we heard about, it is what happened. The shared the Good News with those who were close to them... and then the whole world.



♪ Hymn: Christ is alive.....pg 14 (251)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Rgr3E6dxlg

✦ Sending & Benediction

As we go about our week, turn the overwhelming details over to God, and look for God’s presence in the ordinary.
And remember, Jesus isn’t dead, but is alive.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.



Sunday, April 4

MISSION MOMENT

(Easter Sunday) God's love has given us new life and hope. By love, for love, Christ is risen! In love we proclaim: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!



Nourishing Body, Mind and Spirit

Food is central to fellowship, providing both physical and emotional nourishment. Not surprisingly, some of the ministries supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing share God's love through food. The Raw Carrot Soup Enterprise in Hamilton, Ont., provides nourishment with their homemade soup, while giving meaningful employment to people with disabilities and mental health illnesses. Cooking and nutrition workshops at Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre in Montreal, Que., help parents of young children open up as they discuss the challenges of parenting. Besides providing lunches at their drop-in centre, Kenora Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ont., hosts a monthly Elder's Breakfast to show respect and care for elderly patrons, many of whom are survivors of Indian Residential Schools. These ministries are sharing the love of Christ through hospitality.

DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, April 5 (Easter Monday) We pray that we will be filled with the joy of Easter, and live our lives in response to God's abundant grace.

Tuesday, April 6 We pray for people who are questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation. May they be supported by their families and communities through their discernment and self-discovery.

Wednesday, April 7 We pray for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners walking hand-in-hand with those suffering from tuberculosis, HIV, leprosy and malaria as they journey to health and well-being.

Thursday, April 8 We give thanks for those who have been nominated to serve on the committees of the General Assembly and for the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees as they prepare a slate of nominees for the 2021 General Assembly.

Friday, April 9 We pray for colleague covenant groups and clergy support groups as they support one another and develop healthy perspectives for themselves and their ministries.

Saturday, April 10 We pray for Lay Training Centres of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana (Nsaba, Tamale, Ramseyer) as they train and equip ordained and lay leaders.

Rejoice! Christ is risen!

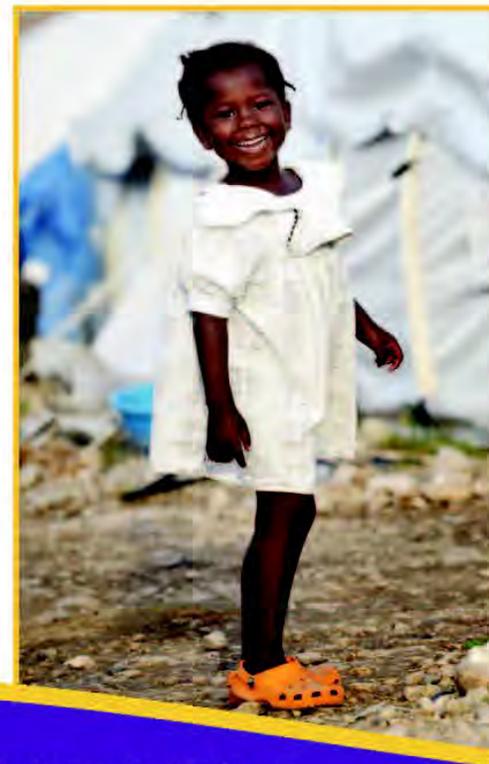
Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, our church answers God's call to serve those in need with compassion, love and justice. Every day we work to serve the hungry, the poor and the displaced.

With your support, we are reflecting God's love by responding to the world's most distressed and marginalized communities. We are acting to provide sustainable agricultural skills, educational opportunities, support for refugees, and access to health care around the world. Together, we are helping communities overcome poverty, recover from emergencies and provide hope for the future.

Faithful to our calling,
we respond together.

This Easter,
please support PWS&D.

WeRespond.ca



 Presbyterian
World Service
& Development

The development and relief agency
of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

401

1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day,
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing,
 3. But the pains which he en - dured,
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove, } Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 2. Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King,
 3. Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured;
 4. Praise e - ter - nal as his love, } Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Who did once up - on the cross,
 2. Who en - dured the cross and grave,
 3. Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 4. One true God by all con - fessed, } Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Suf - fer to re - deem our loss,
 2. Sin - ners to re - deem and save,
 3. Where the an - gels ev - er sing,
 4. Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest, } Al - le - lu - ia!

549 For the bread which you have broken

1. For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
 2. By this prom - ise that you love us, by your
 3. With the ho - ly ones be - fore you, feast - ing
 4. In your serv - ice, Lord, de - fend us; in our

wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by the call to heaven a -
 on your grace out - poured, may the church now wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward; in the world where now you

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 send us, may your king - dom come, O Lord.

Words: Louis Fitzgerald Benson (1855-1930), alt. Music: Corner's Gesangbuch 1631; arrangement, W.S. Rockstro (1823-1895)

* Christ is alive

TRURO 8888LM

D A7/E D/F# D G A7/E D A7/E D/F# G/B A7/G D/F# A7/E D

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands emp - ty to the
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant years in Pal - es -
 3. In eve - ry in - sult, rift and war, where col - our, scorn or wealth di -
 4. Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spir - it, hear the
 5. Christ is a - live and comes to bring good news to this and eve - ry

A /C# E A D/F# A/C# D A/E E7 A /G D/F# D

sky. Let streets and homes with prais - es ring. Love, drowned in
 tine, but sav - ing heal - ing, here and now and touch - ing
 vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where
 call, and find the way, the life, the truth, re - vealed in
 age, till earth and sky and o - cean ring with joy, with

G6 Em6 D/F# G6 D A7 D

death, shall nev - er die.
 eve - ry place and time.
 e - ven hope has died.
 Je - sus, freed for all.
 jus - tice, love and praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936-) Music: Psalmodia Evangelica 1789
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