



the good news is...

alive in the world

April 5, 2026 – 10am

Easter Sunday

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

"An Easter Celebration" arr. Joel Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

People: On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

Leader: On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

People: But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

Leader: The good news is dancing!

People: The good news is on the loose!

Leader: The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

People: Even death has lost its sting.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

*Please rise in body or spirit

*HYMN #232

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”



It seems likely that this beloved Easter text began in Latin and moved through German before reaching English, where it combined with the present tune in the emerging English evangelical style, a reaction to the restrained one-note-per-syllable psalmody that preceded it.

1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

2 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!

4 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!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,
we want to be Easter people.
We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.
We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you.
We want to follow the angels, who said, “Be not afraid,”
but we are afraid.
And we don't know where to look.
And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.
So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.
We are best intentions and best laid plans.
We are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias.”
We are on our way, but we are not there yet.
Show us how to embody your good news in this world.
Show us how to be your Easter people.
With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.**



WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN #581

“Glory Be to the Father”



Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN #188

“Jesus Loves Me”

TALK WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:1-10 (NRSVUE)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

“The Good News is...Alive in the World”

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Will Sing with All My Soul" Tom Trenney

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



OFFERTORY

"Crown Him" by Dan Forrest

*DOXOLOGY #606



**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



THE LORD'S SUPPER

See the back page of the hymnal

At Covenant, we believe the Lord's Supper is for everyone. From newborns to our most mature, all are welcome at this table. The Presbyterian Church teaches, "The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding" (Book of Order, W-3.049).

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

"Thine is the Glory" arr. Hayes

"Let the Whole Creation Cry Alleluia!" arr. Rodriguez

*HYMN #248

“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna”



In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: “Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection.

1 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.

2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.

3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Variations on “The Strife is O'er” arr. Linker

Assisting in Worship Today:

Ethan Chung – Liturgist

Whitney Dodds – Vocalist

Lawrence Cohen - Tuba

Mark Merchant - Euphonium

Zion Porter - French Horn

Jeremy Dunn - Trumpet

Jeff Wiseman - Trumpet

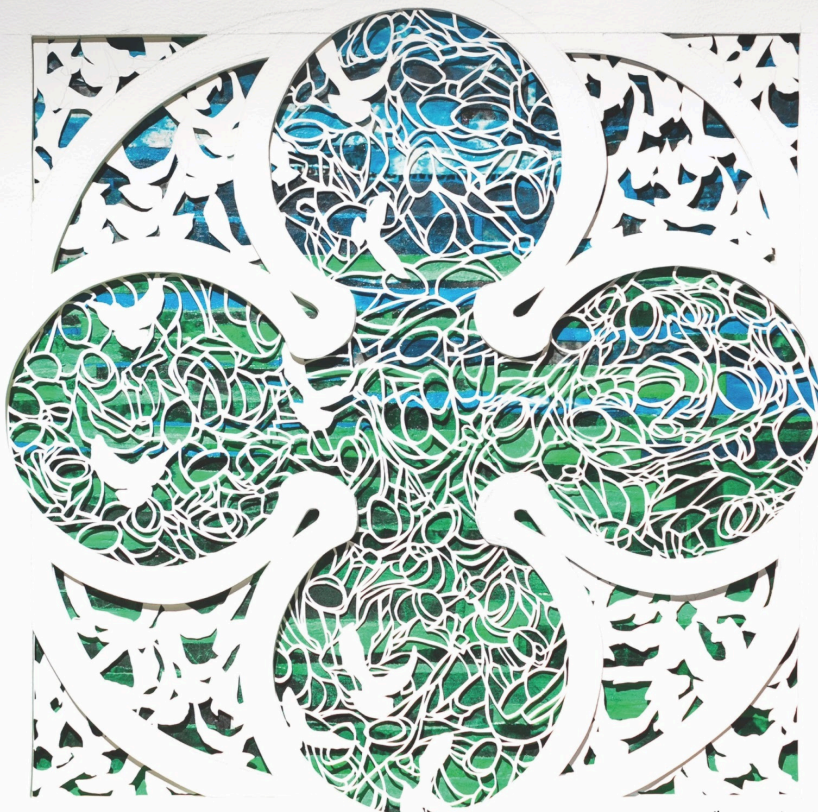
Cherie Brooks – Director of Music & Technology

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor



“Meet Me in Galilee”
by Hannah Garrity
Inspired by Matthew 28:1-10

Hannah Garrity

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Bible Study - Wednesday at 1:00pm in the Lounge. Join Bible Study with the QR code.



Centering Prayer- Thursdays at 8:30am in the Lounge

Easter Photo Area

We would love for you and your family to take a moment to snap a picture! Feel free to stop by after the service, gather your loved ones, and capture a sweet Easter memory together.



2026 VBS



**JUNE 15-18,
9-1130AM**

3 YRS - 5TH GRADE

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://bit.ly/CPCVBS2026>



YOU BELONG HERE.

Join us Sundays

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	WORSHIP SERVICE	OUTDOOR PRAYER SERVICE
Adults & Children 9am Youth Group 11am	In- Person & Virtual 10am	June, July & August 9am

Begin the conversation.



Legacy Giving Lunch

4/19 11:15-1:30pm

RSVP

<https://bit.ly/CPCLegacyLunch>
or contact Megan

NEW MEMBER CLASS

APRIL 19 & 26TH 8:30AM

Interested in learning more about our church and what it means to be a member? Join our upcoming New Member Class! Explore our values and mission and discover how you can get connected.

Email MEGANLEHR@covenantpcusa.org
or call (614) 451-6677 to join!



EASTER: THE CELEBRATION

We waved our palms and clapped our hands
As Jesus passed us. - you and I!
We cheered and shouted out His name
Not knowing we were there to say goodbye.

We followed Him to Gethsemane
And watched Him while He prayed.
We felt the sadness through His tears,
The anguish that He felt that day.

We journeyed through the cruel trial.
This time the people's cheer was booing;
They screamed to put him on the cross;
The disciples faked not knowing.

So now it is the day of Easter
We celebrate His pain so cruel;
Because that pain was God's own Victory:
Eternal life for you and I!

Sarah E Starr
Easter, 2026



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