

Welcome to Philadelphia UMC

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunrise Service

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Kathy Pryor

EASTER AFFIRMATION

L: Why do we look for the living among the dead? He is not here, the Lord has risen!

P: He has risen indeed!

L: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? Death has been swallowed up in victory!

P: Christ has risen indeed!

L: Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in me will never die!"*

P: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has risen! Alleluia!

MORNING PRAYER

(Discipleship Ministries)

P: We give you thanks for your love, your grace, and your power on this blessed Resurrection morning! Today, blessed God, we gather to remember and celebrate. We remember Jesus, who healed the sick and raised the dead. We remember Jesus, who gathered children to himself and dealt kindly with women. We remember Jesus, who always kept the mission in the forefront. We remember Jesus, who consented to suffer and die. Today, Almighty God, we celebrate the fact that death could not hold Jesus in the grave! We celebrate that not even death is able to separate us from the love of God! We celebrate the new life that we have in Christ! We celebrate the assurance that we have of eternal life! Today we celebrate and give thanks that in life, in death, in life after death we belong to God! Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT

Mark 16:9-20 (NIV)

Gerin Knight

⁹ When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him and were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

¹² Afterward Jesus appeared in all different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. ¹³ These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either. ¹⁴ Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven and as they were eating; He rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. ¹⁵ He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands, and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." ¹⁹ After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. ²⁰ Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it."

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

SERMON

"He Came Back"

Rev. Kathy Pryor

HYMN

"Christ, the Lord is Risen Today"

- 1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**
- 2. Love's redeeming work is done. Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won. Alleluia!
Death in vain forbid him rise. Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!**
- 3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death is now thy sting. Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save. Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!**
- 4. Soar we now where Christ has led. Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head. Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise. Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!**

BENEDICTION

The tomb is empty, Christ has risen. As you journey in faith, may your life be full, your love be abundant, your hope be eternal.