

East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church

Reedsville, Pennsylvania



April 20, 2025
11:15 a.m.
Easter Sunday

WELCOME

Lent's 40 days and 40 nights bring us to Easter joy! We have walked the walk with Jesus, and continue to do so embracing the unbelievable mystery of God's love and grace that builds our faith. Christ is Risen!

ACTS of CONTEMPORARY APOSTLES

CENTERING THOUGHT:

God of today and tomorrow,
God of the garden and the tomb,
God of our faith and our doubt,
Like Peter on that Easter morning,
we are running toward you. We cannot stay away.
As flowers fill the black shrouded cross today fill us with the joy of knowing new life in
You. AMEN

*OPENING WORDS/CALL to WORSHIP

On another day we thought death had won.
On another day we thought all was lost.
On another day we thought Christ was gone.
But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen

Christ is risen today.

Alleluia!

*HYMN: PH #123 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*. (All verses)

***CALL to CONFESSION:**

Friends, let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can remember. Join me in the prayer of confession:

***PRAYER of CONFESSION:**

The stone is rolled away!

We assume it is a mistake.

The angels say, “He is not here!”

We assume their news is fake.

The women tell the story,

but we do not want to hear it.

Peter runs to the tomb,

but we do not understand.

**Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb
was an act of stealth.**

**Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths
and still holding tight to death.**

**Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope
when you are alive and well in the world.**

Teach us to see what you see.

Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

Amen.

***WORDS of FORGIVENESS:**

The angels tell the women, “Remember what Jesus told you.” So, church, remember this: You are seen. You are forgiven. You are held in God’s grace. All of this is true. Grace and mercy abound for you. Remember this. Amen!

***PEACE of CHRIST:**

The Peace of Christ be with You!! And Also with You.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!

Let us extend the Peace to those here and beyond the walls of our sanctuary.

***GLORIA PATRI:**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION:

As we return to this familiar text, help us to hear differently this morning. Open our ears that we might hear the sound of Alleluias ringing through this text. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray, amen.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:1-12

MESSAGE: *To Live With 'And'* Rev. Ela J. Robertson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*STATEMENT of FAITH:

We may weep through the longest nights.

We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.

But today, we are a people of hope.

We believe in new beginnings.

We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.

We believe that Jesus abides among us,

healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.

We believe that a tomb could not hold him.

We believe that the sun does rise.

We believe that Peter was there

with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.

We believe that the story is not over yet,

for God is among us.

Today we are a people of hope.

AMEN. So be it.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

LORD'S PRAYER

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: PH #104 *Christ is Risen Shout Hosanna*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* (arr. Lani Smith)
Jene Mertz and Bill Peightel

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

*HYMN PH #108 *Christ is Alive!*

SENDING

*CHARGE:

Celebrate this day of days!
Rejoice in God, your Savior!
Know the new life gifted.
Shout Alleluia for all to Hear!

COACH HORN FANFARE

Christ is Risen!

COACH HORN FANFARE

Christ is Risen, indeed, ALLELULIA!

*BLESSING

AMEN

FLOWERING of THE CROSS

We gather outside at the Easter 'flowering' cross to place a flower or take a flower home to remember the joy of Easter resurrection. Stop for a picture by the cross as well. May this be a crossroads in your life and the life of the church.

POSTLUDE:

Bill Peightel, piano

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING:

May 14	Session Meeting , in the manse, 6:30 p.m.
July 27	Greenwood joint church Picnic and Worship , 11 a.m.

April Blessing-Box needs: canned goods (no vegetables), pancake mix, saltines and peanut butter. Thanks!

Credits: Readings from *New Revised Standard Version* and *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*

Cover Art: Florence V. Cannon, *Easter Lily*, 1945, color screenprint on laid paper, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church

Reedsville, Pennsylvania

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Worship Leader: Rev. Ela J. Robertson

Musician: Bill Peightel and Jene Mertz

Lay Reader: Gail Wagner

