

Alleluia!

HE IS ALIVE!

Valley Community Presbyterian Church

8060 SW Brentwood, Portland, Oregon 97225

Service for the Lord's Day
EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 2009 at 8:30 and 10:00 AM

❖ *Please stand as you are able*
Bold Text is spoken by everyone

GATHER IN G_D'S NAME

TRUMPET & ORGAN PRELUDE

Fanfare

Eldridge

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LOWERING OF THE SHROUD

ACOLYTES

Birgitta Carlson and Ellie Stiller

❖ CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

No. 123

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: *Easter begins in despair. Our life, our love, our hope forever dead, crushed by boulder, bottled up in a cave.*

All: Who will roll away the stone?

One: *Easter takes us by surprise, early in the morning. The obstacles we expect to face are removed. Where once death and despair laid locked in time, now the bright light of hope sprouts wings to fly from emptiness. It is, at first, too good to be true.*

All: Where have you laid him?

One: *When faced with a miracle, our first reflex is to run.*

All: Be not afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is risen; he is not here: see the place where they laid him. But go your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he goes before you into Galilee. There you shall see him.

One: *Suddenly the realization dawns. It may rise as quietly as the sun creeping over the horizon, or it may explode like fireworks, painting the world with dazzle. We recognize the One who was dead as he comes to life in us.*

All: Christ is risen, risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: *And all who encounter the Risen One whether gently roused by the sunrise or surprised by the sudden burst of joy will join the Resurrection Procession one by one, slipping into step, some of us*

singing, some of us silently soaking it in, and all of us feeling like dancing.

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen, risen indeed!

❖ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

G_d, we come before you as those who have been baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, and who seek to be raised to new life in Christ. Yet we confess our fear of death. We fear death as life's ending, and its threat hidden in poverty, danger, or sickness. We fear death as letting go of old ways, old relationships, old self-understandings. We confess our fear of life. Sometimes we want to build shells to protect ourselves from people who come too close, from change that comes too fast, from possibilities that seem too bewildering.

G_d, help us trust our lives into your keeping, accept the embrace of your loving arms, and receive your forgiveness and your promise of life eternal in Jesus Christ. Raise us to walk in newness of life—whether in the faltering steps of infants or the sure steps of mature Christians; through Jesus Christ, who has promised to be with us always. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

❖ **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

PROCLAIM G_D'S WORD

ANTHEM

Concertato on Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Murray Zenk, trumpet
Please join the choir on the 1st and 3rd verses,
and repeat verse 1 for the 5th verse (Hymn 144)

Schalk

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 and Luke 24:13-35

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to G_d

SERMON

Traveling Light

Pastor Minshew

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 16)

RESPOND TO THE WORD

OFFERING

Call for the Offering

Trumpet and Organ Offertory

Spirit Be Joyful

Bach

❖ Doxology for Easter (*sung to the tune "Praise G_d From Whom All Blessings Flow"*)

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,
Do thou thyself our hearts possess,
That we may give you all our days
The willing tribute of our praise!**

❖ Prayer of Dedication

The gift of resurrection reminds us that all we possess comes to us by the grace of G_d. May these gifts and offerings serve as a token of our love and gratefulness. May they be used to further G_d's justice and love in the world. May we live in new life, and share that life with others. Amen.

GO IN G_D'S NAME

❖ HYMN

The Day of Resurrection!

No. 118

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ CONGREGATION BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today! (8:30 service; verse 1 only) No. 113
Hallelujah Chorus (10:00 service) (The congregation is invited to join in)

TRUMPET & ORGAN POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our G_d

Karg-Elert