

*First
Presbyterian
Church*

Birmingham, Michigan



Service of Witness to the Resurrection

Name

Birth Date – Death Date

Instructions for Preparing a Service of Witness to the Resurrection

- 1. Page 1 contains an outline of the service of worship in its entirety. Pages 2-14 give all scripture readings and hymn words.**
- 2. In preparing a service it is customary to choose 2 Old Testament and 2 New Testament Lessons**
- 3. In terms of music up to 3 hymns may be chosen. There are a number of hymns listed...others from the PCUSA hymnal may be used. No secular music is allowed during the service. If special music is requested it needs to be cleared by the Director of Music.**
- 4. The family will need to decide if someone (up to three persons) from the family will speak during the WORDS FROM THE FAMILY TIME**
- 5. It is helpful if the family meets with the pastor prior to the service in order to work out all the details.**

Service of Witness to the Resurrection

First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Michigan

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: If we live, we live to the Lord;
and if we die, we die to the Lord;
All: **So then, whether we live or whether we die,
we are the Lord's.**
One: The eternal God is our dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
All: **As a father has compassion for his children,
so God has compassion for the faithful.
As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you, says the Lord.**

†HYMN

687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*
39 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*
649 *Amazing Grace*
157 *I Danced in the Morning*
366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*
353 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*
822 *When We Are Living*
321 *The Church's One Foundation*
269 *Lead On, O King Eternal*
625 *How Great Thou Art*
326 *For All the Saints*

UNISON PRAYER

**Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth: you
formed us from the dust of the earth, and by
your breath you gave us life.
We glorify you.**

**Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life: you
tasted death for all humanity, and by rising
from the grave you opened the way to eternal
life.
We praise you.**

**Holy Spirit, author and giver of life: you are
the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure
confidence and everlasting hope.
We worship you.**

**To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor,
forever and ever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

A Man Who Delights in God - Psalm 1
God's Abiding Care - Psalm 23
Our Eternal Refuge - Psalm 46
The Source of Our Help-Psalm 121
God's Grace - Psalm 130
God Answers - Psalm 138:1-3
God's Everlasting Kingdom - Psalm 145:13-20a.
God's Gift of a Wife - Proverbs 31:10-31
A Time for Everything-Ecclesiastes 3:1-14
The Source of Our Help-Isaiah 40:27-31

WORDS FROM THE FAMILY

†HYMN

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

The Source of Our Peace - Matthew 6:25-33
Paradise Made Possible - Luke 23:39-43
The Source of Our Peace - John 11:17-27
The Gift of God's Peace - John 14:1-7
The Wonder of God's Providence - Romans 8
The Love God offers- I Corinthians 13 (selected)
The Power of Christ Over the Grave -
I Corinthians 15 (selected)
The Peace of God - Philippians 3:12-14; 4:4-9
The Certainty of Our Salvation -
I Thessalonians 4:13, 14
The Salvation of Our Souls - I Peter 1:1-9

MEDITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison, using "debts" and "debtors")

†HYMN

COMMENDATION (Unison)

**Into your hands, O merciful Savior,
we commend your servant,_____.**
**Acknowledge, we humbly pray,
a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.**
**Receive___ into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company
of the saints in light. Amen.**

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

†Those who are able may stand

Service of Witness to the Resurrection

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: If we live, we live to the Lord;
and if we die, we die to the Lord;
- All: So then, whether we live or whether we die,
we are the Lord's.**
- One: The eternal God is our dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
- All: As a father has compassion for his children,
so God has compassion for the faithful.
As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you, says the Lord.**

†HYMN

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1. | O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home. | 4. | A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun. |
| 2. | Under the shadow of thy throne,
still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure. | 5. | Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day. |
| 3. | Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same. | 6. | O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home. |

39 Great is Thy Faithfulness

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Great is thy faithfulness, O God my
Father; there is no shadow of turning
with thee; thou changest not, thy
compassions, they fail not; as thou hast
been thou forever wilt be. | 2 | Summer and winter and springtime and
harvest sun, moon, and stars in their
courses above join with all nature in
manifold witness to thy great
faithfulness, mercy, and love. <i>Refrain</i> |
| | <i>Refrain Great is thy faithfulness! Great is
thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new
mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand
hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!</i> | 3 | Pardon for sin and a peace that
endureth, thy own dear presence to
cheer and to guide, strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow
blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside! <i>Refrain</i> |

649 *Amazing Grace*

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me...
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now, I see. | T'was Grace that brought us safe thus
far...and Grace will lead us home. |
| 2 | T'was Grace that taught...
my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear...
the hour I first believed. | 4 The Lord has promised good to me...
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be...
as long as life endures. |
| 3 | Through many dangers, toils and
snares...we have already come. | 5 When we've been here ten thousand
years...bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's
praise...then when we've first begun. |

157 *I Danced in the Morning*

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem
I had my birth.
<i>Refrain:</i>
<i>Dance, then, wherever you may be,</i>
<i>I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,</i>
<i>and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,</i>
<i>and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.</i> | the holy people
said it was a shame.
they whipped and they stripped
and they hung me on high,
and they left me there
on a Cross to die. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 2 | I danced for the scribe
and the pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John -
they came with me
and the dance went on. <i>Refrain</i> | 4 I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the Dance,
and I still go on. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 3 | I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame; | 5 They cut me down
and I leapt up high;
I am the life
that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord
of the Dance, said he. <i>Refrain</i> |

366 *Love Devine, All Loves Excelling*

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown! | Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart. |
|---|---|--|

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit,
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.

353 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

Refrain

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

2 When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.

Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise

In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

3 His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay. *Refrain*

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
Refrain

822 *When We Are Living*

1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

2. Through all our living, we our fruits
must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

3. 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of
pain, when sensing beauty or in love's

embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

4. Across this wide world, we shall always
find those who are crying with no peace
of mind,
but when we help them, or when we
feed them,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

321 *The Church's One Foundation*

1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

3. Though with a scornful wonder
we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,

yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4. Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious,
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

5. Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

269 *Lead On, O King Eternal*

1. Lead on, O King eternal,
the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation
thy grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

2. Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace.

For not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

3. Lead on, O King eternal,
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us,
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might.

625 *How Great Thou Art*

1 Lord my God! When I in awesome
wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath
made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty
thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe

displayed;

Refrain:

2 Then sings my soul, my Saviour
God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great

Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour
God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great
Thou art!

3 When through the woods and
forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly
in the trees;
when I look down from lofty
mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the
gentle breeze;

Refrain

4 And when I think that God his
son not sparing,
Sent him to die - I scarce can
take it in,
That on the cross my burden
gladly bearing,

He bled and died to take away
my sin:

Refrain

5 When Christ shall come with
shout of acclamation
And take me home- what joy
shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble
adoration
And there proclaim, my God,
how great thou art!

6 Then sings my soul, my Saviour
God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great
Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour
God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great
Thou art!

326 For All the Saints

1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
3. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
5. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

6. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

UNISON PRAYER

**Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth: you formed us from
the dust of the earth, and by your breath you gave us life.
We glorify you.**

**Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life: you tasted death for
all humanity, and by rising from the grave you opened the
way to eternal life.
We praise you.**

**Holy Spirit, author and giver of life: you are the comforter of
all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope.
We worship you.**

**To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.
Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

A Man Who Delights in God - Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice
of the wicked, or take the path that sinners
tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

² but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and
on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season, and their
leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they
prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that
the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the
judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the
righteous;

⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the
righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

God's Abiding Care - Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;*

³ he restores my soul.* He leads me in right
paths* for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest
valley,* I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely* goodness and mercy* shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD MY whole life long.*

Our Eternal Refuge - Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present* help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Selah

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city;* it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Selah

⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ 'Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.'

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

The Source of Our Help-Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

² My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

⁸ The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

God's Grace - Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

God Answers - Psalm 138:1-3

¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole
heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
² I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your

steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your
word above everything.*
³ On the day I called, you answered me, you
increased my strength of soul.*

God's Everlasting Kingdom - Psalm 145:13-20a.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all
generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.*

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶ You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfils the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,

God's Gift of a Wife - Proverbs 31:10-31

¹⁰ A capable wife who can find? She is far more
precious than jewels.

¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he
will have no lack of gain.

¹² She does him good, and not harm, all the days
of her life.

¹³ She seeks wool and flax, and works with
willing hands.

¹⁴ She is like the ships of the merchant; she
brings her food from far away.

¹⁵ She rises while it is still night and provides
food for her household and tasks for her
servant-girls

¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit
of her hands she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷ She girds herself with strength, and makes her
arms strong.

¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is
profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.

¹⁹ She puts her hands to the distaff, and her
hands hold the spindle.

²⁰ She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches
out her hands to the needy.

²¹ She is not afraid for her household when it
snows, for all her household are clothed in
crimson.

²² She makes herself coverings; her clothing is
fine linen and purple.

²³ Her husband is known in the city gates, taking
his seat among the elders of the land.

²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them; she
supplies the merchant with sashes.

²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she
laughs at the time to come.

²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸ Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her:

²⁹ 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.'

³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

³¹ Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

A Time for Everything-Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. ¹⁴I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it;

The Source of Our Help-Isaiah 40:27-31

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens

the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

WORDS FROM THE FAMILY

†HYMN or SPECIAL MUSIC

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

The Source of Our Peace - Matthew 6:25-33

25 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,^{*} or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?^{*} 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not

clothed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God^{*} and his^{*} righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Paradise Made Possible - Luke 23

39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding^{*} him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah?^{*} Save yourself and us!' 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been

condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' 42 Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into^{*} your kingdom.' 43 He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

The Source of Our Peace - John 11

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus^{*} had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles^{*} away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' 23 Jesus said to

her, 'Your brother will rise again.' 24 Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' 25 Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life.^{*} Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 27 She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,^{*} the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

The Gift of God's Peace - John 14 (selected)

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe* in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^{2*} ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.⁴And you know the way to the place where

I am going.'^{*} ⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know* my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

The Wonder of God's Providence - Romans 8

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in* hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes* for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did

not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.* ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Love God offers- I Corinthians 13 (selected)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and

if I hand over my body so that I may boast,* but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but

rejoices in the truth.⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I

was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly,* but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Power of Christ Over the Grave - I Corinthians 15 (selected)

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters,* of the good news* that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain.

3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters* at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.* ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not

been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.* ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being;²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ

42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

50 What I am saying, brothers and sisters,* is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die,*but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'
⁵⁵ 'Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?'

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Peace of God – Philippians 3:12-14; 4:4-9

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;* but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved,* I do not consider that I have made it my own;* but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly* call of God in Christ Jesus.

⁴ Rejoice* in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.* ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God,

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved,* whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about* these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Certainty of Our Salvation – I Thessalonians 4:13, 14

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,* about those who have died,* so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that

Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

The Salvation of Our Souls – I Peter 1:1-9

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus,
Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and

into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice,* even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen* him,

you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are

receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

MEDITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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

†COMMENDATION (Unison)

Into your hands, O merciful Savior,
we commend your servant, Bill.
Acknowledge, we humbly pray,
a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.
Receive him into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company
of the saints in light. Amen.

†BLESSING

POSTLUDE

†You are invited to stand in body or spirit

Participants: