

Easter Sunday
April 9, 2023

HE IS NOT HERE

HE IS RISEN

HE IS RISEN



First Congregational Church of Fresno
United Church of Christ
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93704

Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields
Guest Minister

(*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/**Congregation/all**)

2

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Creator, 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,
the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.*

Hymn

"The Day of Resurrection"

#245, pew hymnal

*Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10

Lily & Catherine Cooper liturgists

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've given the message to you."

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."

Responding to the Good News

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (half). The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (half). The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (half). The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (half). The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Sermon “The Indescribable” Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields

Invitation to Prayer Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields

Sung Call to Prayer

Lord, listen to your children praying:

Lord send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying:

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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Prayers of the Church

Invitation to Generosity



Here at the Big Red Church, everyone counts, and every gift counts!

- ⇒ *There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).*
- ⇒ *You can also give through the Givelify App by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.*
- ⇒ *BigRedChurch.org/giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.*

Offertory

"Gaelic Alleluia" - arr. C. Courtney

Chancel Choir
Gina Fazio and
Jane Davis-Maldonado, piano

*Doxology (Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Dedication

Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields

*Closing Hymn

"Your is the Glory"

#253, pew hymnal

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields

Like the disciples on the day of Resurrection
May we go toward the tomb

A place seemingly devoid of life
May we find life in all its glory

And spread the news
That life prevails
That life redeems
And that love never fails.

God in peace, with resurrection purpose to love God,
God's children, and God's creation. Amen.

*Blessing Song

"Go Now in Peace"

**Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world will see
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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Postlude

"Hallelujah, from *The Messiah*" - G.F. Handel

Easter Celebration Singers

It is our tradition to be seated during the Postlude.

This Week at Big Red

Monday April 10

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, April 11

- ♦ 06:00pm: Meeting of the Ministries - Minturn Chapel

Wednesday April 12

- ♦ 08:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 06:00pm: Handbell rehearsal—Music room
- ♦ 07:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday April 13

Friday April 14

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday April 15

Sunday April 16

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Paul Martzen, Guest Speaking
Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Congregational Meeting
- ♦ 11:15am: Enchilada pick up day
- ♦ 11:15am: Coffee Hour

First Congregational Church of Fresno

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

Guest in the Pulpit

Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey

Office@bigredchurch.org

Technicians

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Lily and Catherine Cooper

Ushers: Bruce Owdom and Bob McParland

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Church Life

Acolytes: Makenna and Selena

Altar Flowers: Easter Flowers

Chancel Design: Jacquie Shore

FCCF Open and Affirming Statement

We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

The Day of Resurrection

245

John of Damascus, 8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.

Mark 16:1-6

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;
the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
for we, too, want to fol - low and raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

A Greek canon—an extended poem of eight or nine odes, each based on a scriptural canticle—was the source of this hymn.
John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a monastery.

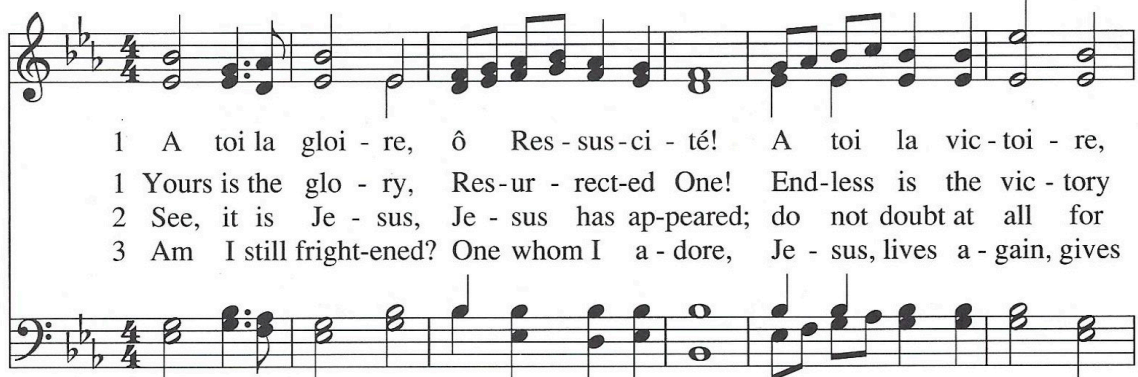
Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836

A toi la gloire, ô Ressuscité!

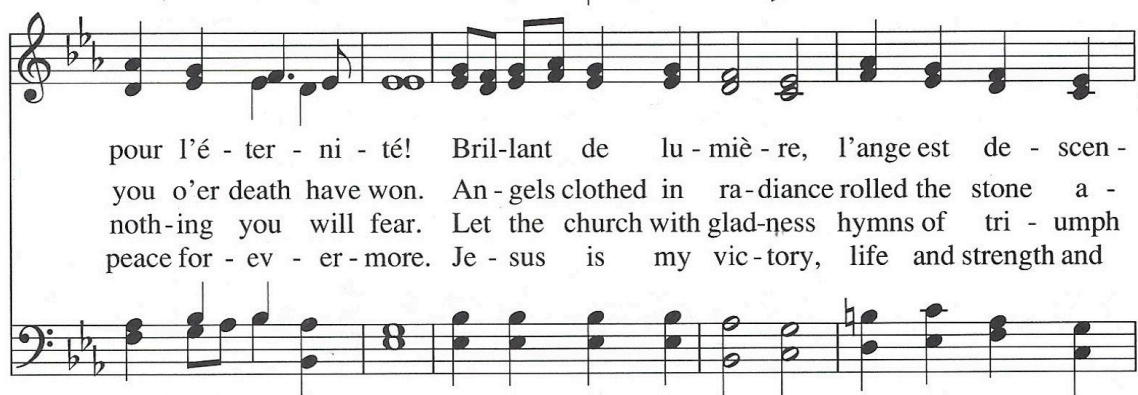
(Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!)

Matt. 28:1-10; John 20:19-29; 1 Cor. 15:54-55

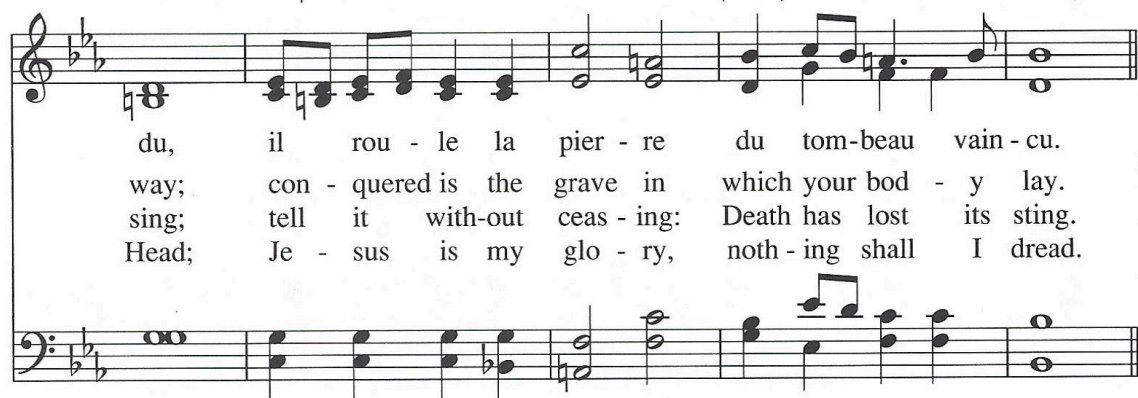
Edmond L. Budry, 1904
Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993



1 A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té! A toi la vic - toi - re,
1 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One! End - less is the vic - tory
2 See, it is Je - sus, Je - sus has ap - peared; do not doubt at all for
3 Am I still fright - ened? One whom I a - dore, Je - sus, lives a - gain, gives

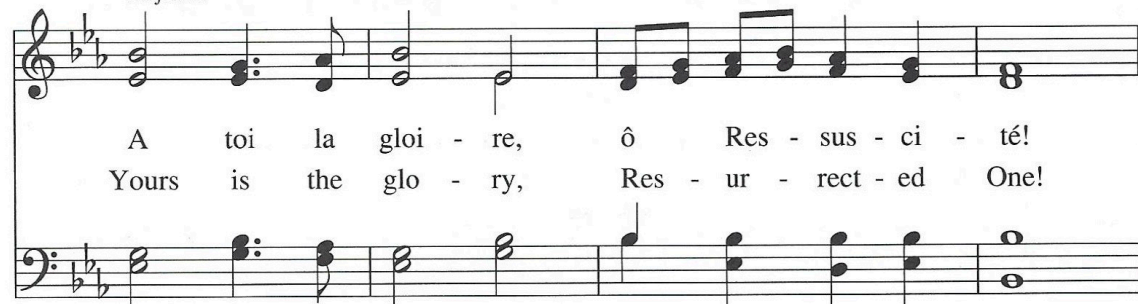


pour l'é - ter - ni - té! Bril - lant de lu - miè - re, l'ange est de - scen -
you o'er death have won. An - gels clothed in ra - diance rolled the stone a -
noth - ing you will fear. Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph
peace for - ev - er - more. Je - sus is my vic - tory, life and strength and



du, il rou - le la pier - re du tom - beau vain - cu.
way; con - quered is the grave in which your bod - y lay.
sing; tell it with - out ceas - ing: Death has lost its sting.
Head; Je - sus is my glo - ry, noth - ing shall I dread.

Refrain



A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té!
Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One!



A toi la vic - toi - re, pour l'é - ter - ni - té!
End - less is the vic - tory you o'er death have won.