



Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church

April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SHARED JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT AND REKINDLING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 118:14-29)

One: God of peace, we enter this holy room knowing the gospel's cornerstones of grace and mercy are often rejected in our world.

ALL: Yet we understand that rejection is not the end of the story.

One: We know that those we have come to know as the builders and the rulers of the world do not have the final word.

ALL: The Gospel of Grace is the Lord's doing.

One: Despite powers and principalities, despite the clamoring of meanness and cruelty,

ALL: this is the day that the Lord has made.

One: Grace is the ground upon which we walk.

ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad.

* HYMN #113

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!



CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

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

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EPISTLE READING

Acts 5:27-42

²⁷ The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."



³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. ³⁵ Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶ Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷ After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

SERMON

Authority

The Rev. Chris Torrey

*** HYMN #108**

Christ Is Alive! (verses 1-4)

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*** DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.

SENDING

*** HYMN #118**

The Day of Resurrection!

BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE AND SENDING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

** Please stand in body or in spirit*

WELCOME TO CRANSTON! We send two emails each week to those interested: an invitation to worship and a summary of prayer concerns and announcements. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Pastor David Annett, by phone or at pastor@cranstonchurch.org. Considering Membership? Contact Pastor David Annett.

THE CHIMES, the newsletter of Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church, is published every two months. The May/June 2025 issue is available this morning! Please take copies to share with folks who might be interested in Cranston Memorial Church! After church today, during coffee hour, we will have a “mailing party” getting the 65 or so copies sent by USPS ready to go into the mail!

Thank you Jim Bianchi for serving as liturgist today.

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