



PRELUDE

Jane Shelly

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Jane Shelly

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

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He is risen indeed!

Christ is risen!
Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor John

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES (at FPC and in our homes) Jane Shelly

We light these candles to remind ourselves of God's presence,
not only in this place, but in all places. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

All who are thirsty, come!

God is the fountain for our lives.

All who are hungry, come!

Jesus feeds us with goodness and grace.

Rich and poor, young and old, neighbor and guest, come!

The Holy Spirit gathers everyone around the Table.

PRAYER AND SILENT LISTENING TO GOD

Let us pray. Almighty and loving God, we thank you that you not only loved us, but you also came to us, revealed to us your way, and promised to abide with us. Be close to us now, your sons and your daughters, those whom you see, and hear, and have called by name. Move among us, inspire our worship, challenge us with your truth, and equip us for service in your world. Amen.

SONG

How Great Is Our God

Worship Ensemble

The splendor of a king – clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
He wraps himself in Light – and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice

*How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God*

Age to age He stands – and time is in His hands
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end
The Godhead Three in One – Father, Spirit, Son
The Lion and the Lamb, Lion and the Lamb. *(chorus)*

Name above all names – worthy of all praise
My heart will sing, “How great is our God!”
Name above all names – worthy of all praise
My heart will sing, “How great is our God!” *(chorus)*

DISCOVERY TIME

Pastor John

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Jane Shelly

Let us confess our sins to God,
whose loving-kindness endures forever.

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Silence, a time for personal confession.

Amen. People of God, hear the Good News:
The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

THE OFFERING

Pastor John

HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West*

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close binding human kind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, what e'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.
All Christly sounds are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8:26-40

Jane Shelly

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

Pastor John

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May we be as living loaves,
Kneaded and shaped by the hands of God.
May we be as wine of the Spirit,
poured out that others might know joy.
Love be the leaven within.
Love be the flavor of thought and word and deed.
Peace be among us.

OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

Prayers of thanksgiving and petition may be offered, followed by:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(or in your preferred version)*

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.

CHARGE

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG *Go Now In Peace*

Go now in peace, never be afraid.

God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know he will guide you in all you do.

Worship Leaders: Pastor John Chase, Music Director Jane Shelly, Accompanist Jenny Smith,

Worship Ensemble

Credits

Art: Menologion of Basil, 10-11th century (cropped).

Call to Worship from Thom M. Shuman, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=Matthew+14>.

Opening Prayer Adapted from *A Collection of Liturgy Resources*, "Opening Prayers and Prayers of Confession" #13 (binder).

Music: *How Great Is Our God*, ©2004 Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash & Jesse Reeves, sixsteps Music.

Music: *In Christ There Is No East or West*, TEXT: John Oxenham, 1908, alt., MUSIC: Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836.