

Opequon Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 5, 2026 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

DAY OF RESURRECTION



OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

<i>Pastor</i>	David R. Witt
<i>Parish Associate</i>	Tracie Martin
<i>Church Office Administrator</i>	Rachel Lesink
<i>Church Finance Administrator</i>	Ken Smiy
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	Carole Witt
<i>Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries</i>	Rebekah Witt
<i>Director of Music</i>	Susan Homan
<i>Organist/Pianist</i>	Garrett Jones
<i>Facilities Coordinator</i>	Robert Sydnor
<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>	Laurie Carver
<i>Faith Community Nurses</i>	Bill Martin, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams

To reach a staff member or if a pastoral concern arises, contact the church office or note who is out of the office and email one of the pastors directly and we will respond in a timely manner.

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

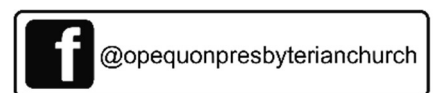
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **We encourage you to share requests for prayer.** You may do so by completing the pink form found in the pew rack and placing it in the offering.
- **Trust your children to the care of our dedicated, loving workers!** The nursery rooms are located through the Gathering Area, down the Gallery and through the Dell Room. An usher will be happy to escort you. Our nursery ministry cares for infants and children under the age of 5.
- **Worship Bags are available for children ages 3 – kindergarten.** These bags are in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the bag and supplies to the basket when you are leaving.
- **Restrooms and a coat rack** are located off the Gathering Area, just outside the Sanctuary.
- **Large-print hymnals, Bibles and bulletins** are available from an usher.
- **Personal hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher if you would like to use one.
- **Transportation can be provided to worship.** Call the church office before 12:00 PM on Friday.

Access our Online Giving at
www.opequonchurch.org/giving
or scan the QR code here:



Follow us on Facebook:



A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Day of Resurrection, Easter Sunday – Communion; One Great Hour of Sharing

- ☞ **Thank you for silencing your phones before we begin the Worship Service.**
- ☞ **As the music of the Prelude begins, we invite you to take a moment to quietly focus your heart and prepare your inward spirit for the worship of God.**
- ☞ Please complete the Friendship Folder and pass it along during the greeting.
- ☞ PRAYER REQUEST forms are inside the pew holders – please place in the offering plate.

† = All who are able, please stand.

Bold print = All in unison.

☞ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ☞

PRELUDE.....*A Joyous Easter Psalm*

By: Benjamin Harlan

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *Rise Up, Easter Morning!*

By: Joseph Graham

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Through God's miracle of grace, we have come through the night and arrived at this glorious new morning.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All doors are open, all creation sings, all that was broken is made whole, and we have new life.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Let all that has life and breath praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

†HYMN No. 245 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

(Tune: EASTER HYMN No. 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*)

Rich Smith, trumpet

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!

All creation, join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

This is a day of celebration, and nothing should prevent us from lifting our voices in praise to God. We must not hide the things we have done or failed to do, the things that do not imitate the perfect love of Christ. We must not let them fester and stifle our joy. Therefore, let us bring them before God in confession, first in unison prayer, then in personal silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Resurrected Christ, there is nothing we can do to deserve the grace you give us. There is no way we can earn your love; there is no way we can be worthy of your forgiveness. And yet you shower these mercies on us. You, who have taken away the sting of death, meet us where we are, in our doubt and fear, in our regrets and shame, in our delight and awe. Meet us here in this place, and call us once again to trust in you as we continue to travel on the road with you, Jesus.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God says to us, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you. Christ says to us, do not be afraid. We need not fear; we are forgiven, we are loved, we are redeemed! Alleluia!

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE..... *Joy Comes with the Dawn*

[refrain] **Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.**

**Weeping may come; weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight.** [refrain]

**Sorrow will turn, sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong.** [refrain]

**We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace.** [refrain]

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

☞ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ☞

ANTHEM..... *Jesus Lives! Alleluia!*

Arranged by: Lloyd Larson
Rich Smith, trumpet

*Christ is risen! Sing your alleluias! Heav'n and earth, resound with alleluias! Jesus lives, alleluia!
Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia! Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, sinners to redeem and save,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love. Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia!**

Christ is risen! Sing your alleluias! Heav'n and earth, resound with alleluias! Jesus lives, alleluia!

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 42:1-9Pew Bible p. 584

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 28:1-10Pew Bible p. 811

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "A Big Day!"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.
Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.
Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!**

SERMON..... "Meeting Us Where We Are"
Pastor David Witt

☞ **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD** ☞

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Run With Me To The Garden*
By: Douglas Nolan

†THE DOXOLOGY (Hymnal No. 606) & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Mighty God of Resurrection and Redemption, we offer our gifts
alongside our alleluias! We offer our hands, hearts, feet, and voices
to take this celebration out into a world that needs hope. May our
giving help build your kingdom of light over darkness. In the name
of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Hymnal p. 9-10, spoken response)

The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer)

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Communion Hymn No. 240 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

[refrain] **Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation. [refrain]

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

Jesus has died and has risen. [refrain]

We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live forever. [refrain]

Come let us praise the living God,

joyfully sing to our Savior. [refrain]

Communion Hymn No. 250 *In the Bulb There Is A Flower*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;

in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!

**In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;

there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.

**From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;

in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,

unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Closing Communion Prayer

☞ **WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME** ☞

†CLOSING HYMN No. 238..... *Thine Is the Glory*

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;

endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,

kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.

[refrain] **Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;**

endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;

lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.

Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,

for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. [refrain]

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

[refrain] **Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 240 (refrain) *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

[refrain] **Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

†POSTLUDE

COMMUNION TODAY WILL INVITE YOU FORWARD

We will come forward to the communion table to receive the sacrament this morning. Each section of pews should move to the left as directed by the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available in the center section. Please see an usher for assistance. Please come forward, receive a piece of bread handed to you and eat immediately. Receive a small cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) and drink immediately, taking your used cup back to your pew and placing it in the cup holder. Return to your seat by the right aisle of your section.

Elders/Deacons serving at the 8:30 AM service today are: Michelle Hammer, Marc DesMarais, Jennie M. Wright, Mike Wygant, Rebecca Agbayani, and Larry Donovan.

Elders/Deacons serving at the 11:00 AM service today are: Marj Praml, Jack Marquis, Ann Smith, Ron Smith, Carole Witt, and Nick Sardelis.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ellen Neff Family	Cheri Norris	June & Nathan Windle
Judy & Larry McKay	Dan Cammer	Judy Gaines
Mo & Heide Mohler	Middle East War	Tim Loftis
Brenda Steffens	Our Soldiers	Ken Johansen
Kimberley Meyers	Bud Proctor	Lynne Rosamilia
Jay Horne	Harry Newman	JoAnne Farrell
Charlie Clark	Nathan Smith & Tracy	Michelle Whiteman-
People of Lebanon	Roger Murphy	McKee
Rusty Lohr	George & Carole	Paulette Fazio
Garvin Fishel	Schwantes	Katie Happel
Kasi Callahan	Gary McDowell	Judy Camper
Al & May Schollenberger	Robin Eddy	Candi Gardner
Marge & Tim Higgins	Rick Ours	David Lewis
Joel Witt	Jean Smith Family	David DesMarias
Luke Strukoff	Jolissa Matthews	Megan Tschappat
Strukoff & DeCeault	Riley Fitzgerald	Charlotte Rosamilia
Families	Sara Frey	Bill Gesell
Darlene Kent	Max Riley	All Struggling with
Susan Arthur	Michael Callahan	Mental Illness
Tammy Mowery Earhart	Nancy Guthrie	Mike Shade
Sandi Crabill	David Goode	Jewish & Muslim Victims
Hunter Alexander	Murray Shantz	Worldwide
Tyler Johnson	Michelle Hall	Cindy Corell
Ray Klinefelter	Caroline Hastreiter	Nancy Kerns
Krista Bowen	Lori Jones & Stephen	Kennedy Ransom
Mary Bremer	Armstrong	Ukraine
Jason Rubio	Jill Crocket	Ethiopia Church Mekane
David Emery	Mike & Trish Crawford	Yesus
Benjamin Fernandez	Pastor Kristin Whitesides	

☞ **PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES** ☞

Robert Littman, Cameron Lloyd, Cameron Andrew Veach, Kayleen Paquette, Kelly Klimek, Jacob & Tiffani Peoples, Sawyer Phillips, Joshua Blake, Max Crane, Andrew Crane, Thomas Crane, Jacob Heavner, Samuel & Julia Phillips, Michael White, Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes, Eli Keaton

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – April 5 (Day of Resurrection, Easter Sunday)

Communion; One Great Hour of Sharing

6:00 AM	Easter Sunrise Worship Service – Pitcock Picnic Shelter
7:00 AM	Easter Breakfast – Fellowship Hall
8:30 AM	Easter Sunday Worship Service – Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Family Easter Event – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM	Easter Sunday Worship Service – Sanctuary & Livestream

THIS WEEK

Monday:	Church Office Closed (Easter Monday)
	6:00 PM Windsong – Sanctuary
Tuesday:	5:00 PM Tech Team Meeting – Bageant Room
	6:00 PM Ministry Team Night – Fellowship Hall
Wednesday:	8:30 AM Backpack Program – Bageant Room
	11:30 AM Happy Days – Fellowship Hall
	1:00 PM Visitation for Jean Smith – Gathering Area
	2:00 PM Memorial Service for Jean Smith – Sanctuary
	3:00 PM Ice Cream Social for Jean Smith – Gathering Area
	5:30 PM Youth Logos Extension – Fellowship Hall
	6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thursday:	10:30 AM Tai Chi – Picnic Shelter/Assembly Room
	11:00 AM Memorial Service for Ellen Neff – Memorial Sanctuary
	12:00 PM Luncheon for Ellen Neff – Fellowship Hall
Saturday:	Young Adult Hike

NEXT SUNDAY – April 12

Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31 Sermon: "Doubting Thomas"

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
9:40 AM	VBS Team Meeting – Memorial Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:15 PM	Senior Outreach Ministry
1:30 PM	Spring Arbor Worship

FAMILY EASTER EVENT TODAY

The Family Easter Event is being held **this morning** at **9:45 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. Children and families are invited to come enjoy a breakfast of hard-boiled eggs, a variety of breads, fruit cups, and cereals followed by the telling of the Easter Story through Tangram pictures. You can use your own set of Tangram block shapes to form the pictures for the story. And of course, there is the **COLORFUL EGG HUNT** for children of all ages to collect eggs. A goodie bag is given to each child as we end this fun event. Come join us!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – 77 Years & Going Strong!

We encourage everyone to give to One Great Hour of Sharing **TODAY**. Special envelopes are available in the pew racks and Gathering Area.

HAPPY DAYS GATHERING

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be held this **Wednesday, April 8**, at **11:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall, beginning with a covered dish lunch. Rotisserie Chicken is provided as well as drinks. (**Note this slightly earlier starting time.**) After lunch, there will be an **indoor EGG HUNT** especially for YOU. See what surprises you will find in the eggs you find. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendships, warmth around the tables and this fun event in celebration of each of you.

THE CAT IS OUT OF THE BAG & THE RESULTS ARE HERE!

Want to know what our congregation snapshot looks like? Wondering if your responses made a difference? Just want to know what's going on? Join us for some lunch and learning as the CAT Team presents the results of the CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) Surveys to the congregation in a large group meeting on **Sunday, April 19**, following the 11:00 AM worship service. A pizza lunch will be provided.

It is important that as many members of the OPC church family as possible become informed about the results of the CAT Surveys and understand the implications of these results for our church.

The CAT presents a vision of where we are here and now, which will help us to prayerfully make good decisions for our future. Your input created our CAT and we urge you to please attend one or more of these important discussions.

CHURCH LIBRARY DISPLAY

A special selection of "God Says You Are..." Opequon library books are on display in the Gathering Area. You are welcome to look through and borrow the books so you can enjoy the wonderful messages the authors bring your way!

In Remembrance:

Mary Ellen Neff

January 2, 1940 – March 30, 2026

*"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.
"Those who believe in me shall live, even though they die,
and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."*

– John 11:26-26

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Dale Ervin
Beadle: Jim Horner
Door Greeters: Joan & Bob Aylor
Hospitality Greeters: Ben Brooks
Ushers: Steve Bock, Jim Horner, Mike Butler, Claire Gaines, Caleb Garcia, London Bender
Acolyte: Claire Gaines
Building Steward: Jim Youngblood

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Thom Picciuto
Beadle: John Hess
Door Greeters: Maureen & Bill Wellman
Hospitality Greeters: Mitch Orndorff
Ushers: Mike & Fran Jeffries, Mike Nutry, Virginia Barr, Jasper Kirby-Yoder, Tucker Birchenough
Acolyte: Virginia Barr
Livestream: Susan Ritter, Nick Jenkins

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How did today's music witness to the hope and joy of Christ's resurrection?

Notes on Today's Prayers

✂ Where and for whom do I need to focus my prayers this week?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

✂ Why is it such a "big day?" How will you celebrate today?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

- ✂ What kind of surprising encounters have you had with people and in places?
- ✂ What kind of surprising encounters did Jesus have with people and in places?
- ✂ How did Jesus meet them where they were?
- ✂ What did you discover in Matthew's description of the resurrection?
- ✂ What stories did they tell after these encounters?
- ✂ How does Jesus meet you where you are?
- ✂ How will you "tell the story and live out the story" of resurrection joy and hope this week?

"Rise Up, Easter Morning!" Joseph Graham; arr. Vicki Tucker Courtney. © 2013 Hal Leonard Corporation & Milwin Music (admin. Hal Leonard LLC). All rights reserved. Reprinted / streamed with permission obtained from CCLI with Church Copyright License® #1622560 and CCLI Streaming Plus License™ #CSPL142660. | Songs reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #742171: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" (ALLELUIA NO. ONE – Fishel) Donald Fishel, 1971; Text & Music: © 1973, International Liturgy Publications. All rights reserved. | "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" Tune: harm. David Evans, © 1927, Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. | "Joy Comes with the Dawn" Gordon Light © 1985 The Common Cup Company. All rights reserved. | "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" ("Hymn of Promise") Natalie Sleeth; © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. | "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!" EASTER HYMN, Lyra Davidica, Lyra Davidica; © Text: 77 77 with alleluias; Verse 1, Latin, 14th cent.; para. in Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Verses 2-3, The Compleat Psalmist, ca. 1750, alt.; Verse 4, Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Later form of melody fr. Lyra Davidica, 1708. All rights reserved. | "Run With Me To The Garden" Douglas Nolan © 2004 Malcolm Music, A Division of Shawnee Press, Inc. International Copyright Secured. All rights reserved. | All other music for this service is found in the public domain.p