

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

www.opequonchurch.org



EASTER SUNDAY

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

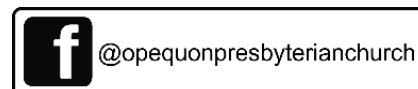
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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 toddlers to age four.
- **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:



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

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

March 31, 2024 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Easter Sunday; Communion

***Thank you for taking the time to silence your phones before we begin the Worship Service.**

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.....*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

Arranged by: Mark Hayes & Marvin Gaspard

(Please use this time to prepare your inward spirit for the worship of God.)

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT*Sing This Joyful Morning*

Words & Music by: Joel Raney

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Yesterday we thought death had won.

Yesterday we thought all was lost.

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen today.

†OPENING HYMN.....*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

"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

In the Gospel of Luke, the women come to the tomb, and to their surprise, instead of finding Jesus, they find angels. The angels tell the women, "Jesus is not here," and when that answer is met with confusion, the angels say, "Remember what he told you." Remember. It's one of the words Jesus used at his last supper, and it's one of the first words we hear at the empty tomb. Remember. I think this call to remember is why we need the prayer of confession and these words of forgiveness every single week. It's not enough to hear of God's grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week. We need to be reminded that God's grace and mercy will never run out. So friends, let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb. Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can remember. Join me in the prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The stone is rolled away! We assume it is a mistake. The angels say, "He is not here!" We assume their news is fake. The women tell the story, but we do not want to hear it. Peter runs to the tomb, but we do not understand. Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb is nothing more than a prank. Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death. Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world. Teach us to see what you see. Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

The angels tell the women, "Remember what Jesus told you." So, church, remember this: You are seen. You are forgiven. You are held in God's grace. All of this is true. Grace and mercy abound for you. Remember this.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 240 (v. 1, 4) *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]

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior. [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

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, up on 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

FIRST LESSON: Acts 10:34-43 Pew Bible p. 895

SECOND LESSON: Luke 24:1-12..... Pew Bible p. 860

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Jesus Gives Us Hope"
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 and the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

SERMON..... "And I Hope"
Pastor David Witt

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Interposed His Precious Blood: A Victorious Quodlibet*
Arranged by: William Heavner

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

Holy God, you shower us with gifts so abundant, we cannot measure them all. You give us life itself and the power to befriend our companions in this world. Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, one God, now and forever. Amen.

†THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We may weep through the longest nights.
We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.
We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.
But today, we are a people of hope.

We believe in new beginnings.

We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.

We believe that Jesus abides among us, healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.

We believe that a tomb could not hold him.

We believe that the sun does rise.

We believe that Peter was there with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.

We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us.

Today we are a people of hope.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

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

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

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

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]**

†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: Beth Barr, Mike Wygant, Karen Winters, Tom Tandy, Rebecca Agbayani, and Marc DesMarais.

Elders/Deacons serving at the 11:00 AM service today are: Marj Praml, Jack Marquis, Fran Jeffries, Bill Thomasson, Robin Cooke, and Nick Sardelis.

In Remembrance:

Fred C. Johnston

October 7, 1942 - March 24, 2024

*"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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Alan Berry	Monica Ervin	Bereaved Israelites &
Faye Myers	Haiti	Palestinians
Vonnie Johnston & Family	Roger Murphy	Jewish & Muslim Victims
Ann Tufts	Kylie McDonald	Worldwide
Chris Wilfong	Gina Braack	Graham Taylor
Parker Plumb	William Day	Norma Windle Albanese
Annemarie Matthews	Tommy Gibson	Stephen Armstrong
Joanne Berson	Randy Martin	Lori Jones
Mary & Don Royston	Hanna Cade	Carlene Lemasters
Karen Lemons & Family	Vicki Harman	José LaMont Jones
Shalane	Liz Martin	Cindy Correll
Curtis & Casey Daily	Ken Coryell	Douglas Dicks
Olivia Aliff & Family	June Windle	Joyce Griffiths
Wildfire Victims	Martha Fischer & Family	Nathan Windle
Marge & Tim Higgins	Betty & Gayle DeHaven	Tim Loftis
Cindy Faircloth	Carolynne Pell	Katie Happel
Carol Nutry	David André	Michael Weller
Melissa Martin	Brian Daniska	Cindia Stewart
Charlotte Rosamilia	Emma Kate Hathaway	Rich Valenti
Lillian Hanks & Jennie Wright	Sandy Widell	\Nancy Kerns
Tom Rader	Mike Shade	Kennedy Ransom
Louis "J.R." Rittmeyer	Art Littman	Ukraine
	Martha Jackson	Ethiopia Church Mekane
	Rick Friedrichsen	Yesus

🌿PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES🌿

Kayleen Paquette, Kelly Klimek, Jacob & Tiffani Peoples, Sawyer Phillips,
Joshua Blake, Max Crane, Andrew Crane, Thomas Crane, Jacob Heavner,
Samuel & Julia Phillips, Brandon Michael, Michael White, Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – March 31

Easter Sunday; Communion; Special Music; One Great Hour of Sharing

- 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Worship Service – Pitcock Memorial Picnic Shelter
7:15 AM Easter Breakfast – Fellowship Hall
8:30 AM Easter Sunday Worship Service – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM Family Easter Event – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM Easter Sunday Worship Service – Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

- Monday: **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Easter Monday)**
6:00 PM Windsong – Sanctuary
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
12:30 PM Youth Bowling
5:00 PM Tech Team Meeting – Bageant Room & Zoom
6:00 PM Ministry Team Night – Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday: 6:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
- Thursday: 10:30 AM Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary/Picnic Shelter
6:30 PM Sherando Food Pantry
7:00 PM Architectural Review Team (ART) – Assembly Room
7:00 PM Vision Team – Bageant Room
- Saturday: 9:00 AM "Mulch Madness" Church Grounds Work Day

NEXT SUNDAY – April 7

Communion; CCAP

Scriptures: Isaiah 65:17-25; John 21:1-19 Sermon: "Here's My Heart"

- 8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room
9:45 AM Opie's Playhouse – Memorial Sanctuary
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – 75 YEARS STRONG!

Special giving envelopes for One Great Hour of Sharing are available in the pew racks. Fish coin banks should be added to the display in the Gathering Area **today**. These gifts help improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed through three life-saving programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People.

FAMILY EASTER EVENT – TODAY

Come join in the annual Family Easter Event this morning at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This fun event is for kids of all ages and families. Breakfast is included as well as a short video, an Easter demonstration, sound effect story, and The Great Egg Hunt! Children are asked to bring a bag or basket to collect their eggs. Treat bags will be given to all children at the end of the event. It is a great celebration!

CHURCH OFFICE/STAFF SCHEDULES THIS WEEK

- Monday, April 1: Church Office Closed – Easter Monday
- April 3-6: Rebekah Witt – GenOn Training
- April 5-6: David & Carole Witt – out of town

To reach a staff member or if a pastoral concern arises, please contact the church office (540-662-1843 or office@opequonchurch.org) or email or call one of the available pastors directly and we will get back to you in a timely manner.

"MULCH MADNESS" CHURCH GROUNDS WORK DAY

The "Mulch Madness" Church Grounds Work Day will be on **Saturday, April 6**, at **9:00 AM**. Contact Mike Wygant (wygant766@yahoo.com) if you are able to come and help spread some mulch.

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE MEETS NEXT SUNDAY

Next **Sunday, April 7**, we will be back to our regularly scheduled Opie's Playhouse! We can't wait to see all our friends and their parents and grandparents for our monthly playgroup! All children 7 and under and their families are invited to join us in the Memorial Sanctuary from **9:45-10:45 AM**. Coffee, juice and snacks will be provided. Please drop in any time!

SPRING FORWARD EVENT

Have you recently gone through a big life change? Are you a recent empty-nester, newly retired, or have you gone through a recent life transition? Have you been at Opequon for a long while? Come and join us for a party and fellowship/catch-up time on **Sunday, April 14, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM**, in the Fellowship Hall! Goodies, beverages, and uplifting conversations provided. **Please RSVP by April 7** to the church office (540-662-1843 or office@opequonchurch.org).

THESE DAYS DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The April-June issue of *These Days Daily Devotional* is available in the Gathering Area. This issue features the themes, "This Side of Easter," "Glimmers of Hope," "Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening," and "God's Amazing Abundance." A limited supply of devotionals are available. Help yourself while supplies last.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Trumpet: Aidan Murray
Liturgist: Doug Joyner
Beadle: Ben Brooks
Door Greeters: Winter & Ben Brooks
Hospitality Greeters: Debbie & Bill Bender
Ushers: Jim Youngblood, Terry Hartman, Larry Donovan, Jace Hartman, Claire Gaines
Acolyte: Claire Gaines
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Livestream: Susan Ritter, Max Agbayani

11:00 AM Worship

Trumpet: Aidan Murray
Liturgist: Ann Denison
Beadle: Shirley Tomblin
Door Greeters: Bonnie Pitzer, Carole Fox
Ushers: Bill Berson, Kyle Homan, Mike & Fran Jeffries, Flynn Hall, Sydney Sardelis, Alex Sardelis, Finn Berson
Acolyte: Flynn Hall

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How does today's music witness to resurrection hope and new life?

Notes on Today's Prayers

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

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

✂ We usually don't like it when something is empty. Why is an empty tomb good?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

✂ How do you feel on Easter morning?

✂ When have you experienced a holy "and" when you thought something in your life had come to an end? When have you begun again—despite heartbreak, or grief, or failures?

✂ Even after the biggest failures, even after the worst-case scenario has happened, can we run toward hope? Like Peter, will we keep going? Will we keep looking for God in our midst?

✂ How can belief in the God of resurrection truly can change the world?

✂ In what ways are you experiencing resurrection this Easter?

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