

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter Sunday

April 4th, 2021

Indoor Worship Service

“The most fantastic of all Christian claims is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. It strains our credulity to the limit. Human beings have tried with all possible ingenuity both to defy and to deny death. But only Christ has claimed to conquer it, that is, to defeat it in his own experience, and, to deprive it of its power over others.”

John Stott

“I find that Holy Week is draining; no matter how many times I have lived through his crucifixion, my anxiety about his resurrection is undiminished – I am terrified that, this year, it won’t happen; that, that year, it didn’t. Anyone can be sentimental about the Nativity; any fool can feel like a Christian at Christmas. But Easter is the main event; if you don’t believe in the resurrection, you’re not a believer.”

John Irving, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

“Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells’ dissolution did not reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall . . .

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the
faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door.”

John Updike

GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

Glad songs of salvation
are in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly,
the right hand of the Lord exalts,
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!”

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is ris'n today alleluia / Sons of men and angels say alleluia
Raise your joys and triumphs high alleluia / Sing ye heavens and earth reply alleluia

Lives again our glorious King alleluia / Where O death is now thy sting alleluia
Once he died, our souls to save; alleluia / Where thy victory O grave alleluia

Soar we now where Christ hath led alleluia / Following our exalted Head alleluia
Made like Him like Him we rise alleluia / Ours the cross the grave the skies alleluia

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Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us / How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven / And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness / Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written / Jesus Christ my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy / What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory / To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven / The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever / Jesus Christ my living hope

*Hallelujah praise the One who set me free / Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain / There's salvation in Your name / Jesus Christ my living hope*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise / Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion / Declared the grave has no claim on me (repeat)
Jesus Yours is the victory

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Call to Confession

Ethan Smith

Confession of Sin

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. If, at times, we deny you, God forgive. When the risks of discipleship and witnessing are high, and we are nowhere to be found: God forgive. When we wash our hands of responsibility: God forgive. Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired; new love where we have turned hard-hearted; and the freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves. In the name of Jesus, the Risen One, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

¹³ You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14

Jesus Paid It All

I hear the Savior say / Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray / Find in Me thine all in all

*Jesus paid it all / All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain / He washed it white as snow*

Lord now indeed I find / Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots / And melt the heart of stone

And when before the throne / I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save / My lips shall still repeat

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt / And raised this life up from the dead

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Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Welcome and Prayers of the People

Jeff Trollinger

Offering & Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts / Praise father, son, and holy ghost

Life Together

David Speakman

ATTENDING TO GOD'S WORD

“Easter: It's Kind of a Big Deal”

David Speakman

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:1-26

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: *Thanks be to God*

The Lord's Supper

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into Hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Lord's Supper Instructions

- We invite those seated furthest away from the pulpit to come to the table first. An usher will tell you when to come.
- Households may approach together. We ask that each household practice physical distancing when awaiting their turn.
- Communicants will cup their hands, ready to receive the bread.
- Another server will make a cup available for each communicant to pick up. Wine is the darker liquid and grape juice is the lighter liquid.
- Young children who have made a profession of faith may partake in the Lord's Supper when they have met with and been approved by the Session.

ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found / He is my light my strength my song

This Cornerstone this solid Ground / Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love what depths of peace / When fears are stilled when strivings cease

My Comforter my All in All / Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh / Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness / Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died / The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid / Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay / Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day / Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory / Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine / Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death / This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath / Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man / Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home / Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music

Benediction

²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Number 6:24-26

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

LIFE TOGETHER

Childcare During the Indoor Worship Service: Two nursery rooms (previous Infant & Ones rooms) will be open for individual family use. The rooms are equipped with TV's displaying the morning worship livestream and surfaces

are cleaned prior to the service. We ask that those who use the space, please sign in on the door prior to entering the space and place toys used in the “Used Toy” container upon leaving.

Men’s BBQ at the Farm: April 17th, 11:30-3:30pm. All-you-can-eat food, a day at Ahava Farm in Mt. Airy, lawn games and skeet shooting, and unhurried time connecting with other guys at Hope. No cost, but please register for a head count. hopechurchws.org/BBQ

Toddler Sensory Playtime: On Friday, April 23rd, 10:00-11:00am, we will play in individual sensory boxes and explore the colors of God’s beautiful creation. All of our activities will remain in groups of families, keeping social distancing in mind. Deadline to register is April 18th. hopechurchws.org/playtime

Summer Ministry Internship: Hope Church has a staff opening for a part-time summer intern, beginning in May/June. The position is intended to provide ministry experience to a college-aged man or woman. See the job description or apply on our website. hopechurchws.org/internship

Life Groups: Life Groups are smaller communities (typically 12-15 adults) made up of members, regular attenders, and friends of Hope Church that meet anywhere from once a week to twice a month. hopechurchws.org/lifegroups

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Mask Donations: Speas Elementary needs child-size disposable face masks for their students. If you’d like to help with this need, you can follow the link to an Amazon wishlist to make a purchase and have it delivered to the school. <https://a.co/8gxw1N0>

If you’d prefer to deliver child-size face masks to the school yourself, the address is: Speas Elementary School, 2000 Polo Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.