



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 9, 2023 – 11:00 am

Easter



adapted from "New Life," liebeslakritze

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."
Matthew 28:8-10 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill, Eggs and Ashes: Practical and Liturgical Resources for Lent and Holy Week (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2004); and Ruth Burgess, Summer: Liturgical Resources for May, June and July including Eastertide and Pentecost (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2020).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Easter Chant*

GORDON YOUNG/BASED ON "O FILII ET FILIAE"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #123:** *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

CHARLES WESLEY

Jesus Christ is risen 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 heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME," IONA COMMUNITY

We have travelled a long way to come here,
from many places, and through Holy Week to Easter.
Now we gather in God's name in God's place.

We have told the story of Jesus's suffering and death,
and remembered how the disciples were scattered in despair.
Now we celebrate Christ risen from the dead.

We have been silent in the face of failure and fear;
but now have found our voices, know your hope.
Now we shout the good news, sing alleluia.

Let us worship our God.

***SONG OF ADORATION #243** (*Glory to God*): *Be Not Afraid (sung 3x)*

TAIZE COMMUNITY

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!

LITANY OF PRAISE

"GOD HAS MADE LAUGHTER FOR US," DAVID COLEMAN

Christ is risen; He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Risen in quiet and mysterious darkness before the chorus of the dawn.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

Risen with glory and grace in reserve, and authority beyond measure.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

Risen to prove violence is no solution; to offer us peace and life in all its fullness.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

For God has taken into his own flesh the sin of the world.
The last laugh is God's laugh; God has the last laugh:
For freedom comes beyond the cross,
for peace comes beyond the violence,
for friendship comes beyond the betrayal.
For life comes beyond the crushing of life.

The first laugh and the last laugh are God's.
And God has made laughter for us.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Met us today, O Lord.
Met us here, in this place, O Lord.
Met us here as you met Mary and the other women,
evangelists to the apostles,
first to preach your Easter Good News.
By your Spirit,
***met us today, O Lord,
in your story of Resurrection,
and your good news that not even death
has the last word,
for your last word is love.
Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 118:19-24

PEW BIBLE, 758

MATTHEW 28:1-10

PEW BIBLE, 1213-1214

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

"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!

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"EASTER PATHS," JOHN RACKLEY

The Resurrection changes everything.
It is an invitation to live differently...
...The God of Resurrection
brings life from death,
hope from despair,
new disconnecting paths to explore.

***They are paths of transformation –
from fear to trust, from the known to the unknown,
from disappointment to delight, from stay to go,
from blame to forgiveness, from here to infinity
and from condemnation to encounter.***

The path of tears

Mary weeps.
They are the tears of grief and longing.
Tears respond to what words cannot describe.
They speak of pathways to experience deep within us.

The path of doubt

Thomas, the lonely disciple.
He spoke what others only thought.
He never felt the others were comfortable with that...
...Thomas, the isolated disciple.
He was given a special invitation from Jesus.

The path of disappointment

They have no name.
But their struggle with Christ is familiar.
He is not what we thought.
He has to meet us in another way.

The path of failure

Peter and Jesus met on a beach.
Nothing was said about what had happened.
Past failings cannot be removed from the record.
Redemption was offered – through a tough choice

The path of disorientation

Paul had a faith and he was happy about it.
Then came a moment he could not contain.
He could no longer see his way ahead.
The old would become the birthplace of the new.

So!
God, you are present in the familiar and secure.
When we run for cover because we are tired
or too anxious to face disappointment or loss,
draw us out of fright and uncertainty
and stand with us in strength and power.

silence

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Friends, wherever you find yourselves on this Easter Sunday,
I proclaim to you in the name of our risen Lord that:

You are enough.

You are forgiven.

You are loved.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *He is Lord* (Choir will sing first, then congregation)

He is Lord! He is Lord!

He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *O Church, Arise / In Christ Alone*

KEITH GETTY, STUART TOWNEND

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"The women's sermon"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are once again invited to enter into a time of silent prayer.

LITANY FOR EASTER

"THE BIRDS SANG: AN EASTER LITANY," JOHN MURNING IN "SPILL THE BEANS"

The birds sang
alleluias were freed
the disciples ran
dawn slipped in
the garden woke
the mountains quaked
***the tomb rocked
and the stone rolled.***

The stars rejoiced
the sun bowed
the Spirit laughed
the water flowed
the bread broke
the wine shimmered
***the tomb rocked
and the stone rolled.***

Mustard grew
the disabled walked
poor were blessed
peacemakers made peace
the storm calmed
cheeks were turned
***the tomb rocked
and the stone rolled.***

Light exploded
time held its breath
the women wept
the gardener spoke
the angels danced
the world woke
***the tomb rocked
and the stone rolled.***

Zacchaeus winked
Mary cried
Bartimaeus saw
the leper danced
the prodigal came home
the lost sheep was found
***the tomb rocked
and the stone rolled.***

The time is now
the place is here
the people are us
the word is spoken
the Son is alive
the Resurrection is true
***the tomb rocks
and the stone rolls.***

***SENDING**

"LEAD US LORD," IONA COMMUNITY

Lord of life, you walk this journey with us and through us;
Lead us Lord, lead on.

Journeying within, and wrestling with the world,
Lead us Lord, lead on.

Lead us to risk, to grow, and to tread the path you have opened for us;
Lead us Lord, lead on.

And let us rejoice that every place is your place;
in the name of Christ, the risen one. Amen.

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN :** *Because He Lives*

GLORIA & BILL GAITHER

*We will process out to the lawn for our flowering of the cross while singing final chorus and a time of fellowship.
Happy Easter!*

God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone,
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he brings;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives! **(Chorus)**

And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives! **(Chorus)**

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

April 3rd – April 9th Stations of the Cross – All day – here in the Recreation Area

We are excited to offer our Recreation Area as a space for the community for prayerful reflection during Holy Week. Our 15 stations (including a final station for the Resurrection) will utilize ecumenical meditations and prayers from the Iona Community.

April 9th Easter Sunday – 11am in the Sanctuary

Our Easter celebration. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us!

April 11th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30.

Please stop by and “check-out” this wonderful service the library has to share.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, April 9th - Easter Sunday

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Monday-Sunday, April 3rd – 9th - Stations of the Cross

All day at the Recreational Area

Wednesday, April 12th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, April 16th - Second Sunday of Easter

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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