

WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday April 1, 2018 9:30am
MORNING WORSHIP on EASTER SUNDAY

PREPARATION MUSIC Here is an Easter prayer after Luke 24—today's scripture and basis for this anthem: *All praise to you, Jesus Christ, risen Savior! You triumphed over death and hell. You are the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Forgiveness and salvation are yours. You have redeemed us and made us holy in the sight of God. Grace and peace flow from you. In you and through you we find strength and blessing and abundant life. Let all of heaven and earth declare your praise as the risen Son of God, the Savior of the world!*

Why do you seek the living among the dead? The stone has been rolled away as the angel said. Why are you weeping, when Christ, his promise keeping, has opened heaven's door? He's alive, he has risen, the tomb is empty. He's alive. He has risen. The tomb is empty. He's alive. He has risen to reign forevermore. He is alive! Sing Alleluia, Christ is risen. Sing a hymn of praise to God on high. The power of sin has been overcome, the ransom paid by the holy Son. Blameless forgiven, the dead are raised to life! Praise to the Lord of earth and heaven. Christ arose and opened paradise. On this day of resurrection, join the jubilant celebration. Alleluia, Christ is alive! Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven and voices raise. Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn, a hymn of praise! Sing Alleluia, Christ is risen. Sing a hymn of praise to God on high. Now love's redeeming work is done. He fought the fight, now the battle's won. Blessed Redeemer, the King of love and light! Praise to the Lord of earth and heaven. Christ arose and opened paradise. From the grave he rose, victorious, praises ring from the heavenly chorus, Alleluia, Christ is alive. Christ is alive. Sing Alleluia, Christ is risen." Christ is alive, he's alive, Christ is alive!

CALL TO WORSHIP Today's call to worship comes from three scriptures (*please look up and read*): *Luke 24:5-6; 1 Cor. 15:54-55, 57; John 11:25-26.* Yes, Lord Jesus, we believe. We believe that you are the resurrection, the

One who has conquered death. We believe that you are the life, the one from whom we receive divine abundance forever. We believe that you are the Christ, God's Anointed One Who has come to save us. We believe that you are the Son of God, the King who reigns forever, the only Son who reveals the Father to us. Our minds affirm that all of this is true and our hearts confirm with a resounding "Amen!" We place our full confidence in you, for you alone are worthy of our trust. Yes Lord, we do believe!

Leader: Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; the Lord has risen!

People: He has risen indeed!

Leader: The Lord has risen!

People: He has risen indeed!

Leader: The Lord has risen!

People: He has risen indeed!

Leader: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? Death has been swallowed up in victory!

People: Christ has risen indeed!

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

People: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: The Lord has risen!

People: He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN What a glorious truth to ponder---that Jesus is not the "GREAT I WAS" but rather the "GREAT I AM". He is not only a historical fact but a present-day living reality. Christianity rests upon the truth that Jesus Christ rose from the grave and is now seated at the Father's right hand as our personal advocate. The message of the resurrection is to "come and see"—to personally experience the transforming power of the living Christ. Then, "to go and tell."

1

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

All creation, join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2

**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!**

3

**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!**

4

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

SPECIAL MUSIC: (1st Corinthians 15:51-5) *The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* A Prayer: Eternal Christ, giver of life, how this truth deepens as my life lengthens. Grief's forced but temporary good-byes increase in number, yet with each one I move closer to your trumpet's resounding signal. With every dark diagnosis I cling more tenaciously to your promise that we who believe shall live again in a place more whole, more shining, and substantial than anything this Earth could ever boast. The faint taste of victory I now savor is only a foretaste of your everlasting Wedding Feast!"

CONFESSSION: (another prayer of confession: *Jesus, I have betrayed you in thought word, and deed. I have denied you in guilty silence. I have chosen to please others, rather than you. I have behaved in ways that are not fit for your kingdom. Gracious Savior, forgive my weakness and restore me to wholeness. Make me less like Peter and more like you.*)

Leader: If, at times, we deny you, God forgive us. When the risks of discipleship are high, and we are nowhere to be found;

People: God forgive us.

Leader: When we wash our hands of responsibility;

People: God forgive us.

Leader: When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors and seek to buy freedom with silver:

People: God forgive us.

Leader: When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth, or prejudice keeps us from believing it:

People: God forgive us.

Leader: In the bright light of Easter morning, O God, our sin is exposed, and your grace is revealed.

People: God, raise us in your love so that, with joy, we may witness to your awesome deeds, in the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(prayer: Thank you Jesus you did not wait for us to repent. You did not wait for us to change our ways or clean up our act. You saved us while we were still sinners. And we are all sinners, sinners by birth, sinners by nature, sinners by choice, sinners by default, sinners for whom you died. There is no sin that your blood cannot cover, no stain that your blood cannot cleanse. There is no one so lost that you cannot find him, no prodigal so distant that you cannot hear her prayer. There is no person too sinful to be saved---just too stubborn to accept your gift of salvation!)*

Leader: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that through God's love in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. God has shown his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. *(Romans 5:8, I Peter 2:24)* I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

SCRIPTURE/SERMON Read Luke 24:1-12 The two angels asked the women why they were looking in a tomb for someone who was alive. Often we run into people who are looking for God among the dead. They study the Bible as a mere historical document and go to church as if to a memorial service. But Jesus is not among the dead---he lives! He reigns in the hearts of Christians, and he is the head of his church. Do you look

for Jesus among the living? Do you expect him to be active in the world and in the church? Look for signs of his power—they are all around you.

Offertory Anthem *Read John 11:25---Jesus said: I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies, shall live again. He is given eternal life for believing in me and shall never perish. We see that Jesus has power over life and death as well as power to forgive sins. This is because he is the Creator of life. He who is Life can surely restore life!*

We welcome glad Easter when Jesus arose, and won a great victory over his foes. Then raise your glad voices, all Christians, and sing, bring you glad Easter praises to Jesus, the King! We tell how the women came early that day, and there at the tomb found the stone rolled away. We sing of the angel who said, "Do not fear! Your Savior is risen, and He is not here, He is not here." We welcome glad Easter when Jesus arose, and won a great victory over his foes. Then raise your glad voices, all Christians, and sing, bring your glad Easter praises to Jesus, the King! Alleluia...We think of the promise which Jesus did give: "That those who believe in me also shall live?" Then raise your glad voices! Then raise your glad voices, come, raise your glad voices, come, raise your glad voices and sing Easter praises to Jesus, the King! Alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN *Read John 12: 32-34. Prayer: Jesus, you are high and lifted up. You have been raised to glory, not by the power of human might, nor by the adulation of mortal praise, but by the weakness of the shameful cross. As you were lifted up to a humiliating death, so you have been lifted infinitely higher to the glorious throne of God. You have been given authority, glory and sovereign power so that all peoples will worship you. And now you draw people from all nations to your everlasting kingdom. All praise and glory and honor be to you, Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God, to you who have suffered and died, who have been raised to new life and who are now exalted on high!*

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

till all the world adore his sacred name.

1

**Come, Christians, follow where our Savior
trod,
our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
[Refrain]**

2

**All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
[Refrain]**

3

**O Lord, once lifted on the tree of pain,
draw all the world to seek you once again.
[Refrain]**

4

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!
[Refrain]**

SEE YOU SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

