

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Easter Sunday

April 12, 2020

Call to Worship

Beloved church, behold the victory of our God: Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Sin and death shall reign no more.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Let this place resound with joy.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

Hymn Presbyterian Hymnal 123 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

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!

Call to Confession

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in your glorious resurrection. Yet we have not lived as Easter people. We are unsure of your promise, confused about your will, and afraid in the face of danger. Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but do not recognize your presence. Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know you with confidence. Whenever we are tempted to fear death, give us courage to confess your Easter victory. Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts, keep our minds on your reconciling love. Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil, reveal again to us your triumph over the destructive powers of

oppression. Forgive us our sin and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Listen, church: God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer for Illumination

Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit roll away the stone and reveal to us the Word of Life. Amen.

First Reading Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Second Reading John 20:10-29; 21:15-19

Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this,

he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

SERMON "How the Resurrection Changed Lives"

John 20:10-29

- Good morning!
- Christ has risen indeed!
- This morning in our Easter text, there are three different incidents of Jesus appearance.
- Jesus had work to do
- He had to take those who were close to him and personally help them through their personal fears so that they could find new meaning and purpose in his death and resurrection
- I feel that these three incidents in the lives of Mary, the disciples, and Thomas demonstrate to us how the resurrection of Jesus Christ changed the trajectory of their lives in profound ways.

Because of the Resurrection of Jesus:

1. Mary's Sorrow Turns to Joy (John 20:10-18)

Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels

in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

- The first thing you see here is Mary weeping in front of the empty tomb.
- She was crying so much, Jesus and two angels tried to get her attention, but she could not see through her tears
- Because of her tears, she was also blinded to recognizing that Jesus was across from her
- What did Jesus do?
- He said her name, "Mary"
- But packed inside Jesus' usage of Mary's name meant identification, empathy, connection, personal understanding, and the full presence of Jesus.
- The mere four letters of her name, "Mary," is one of the most beautiful statements Jesus makes in his resurrected state
- I wish I could have been there to see Mary's face at the identification of Jesus when he used her name.
- Mary immediately recognized him and calls him, "Teacher!"
- What was her natural response?
- She tried to give him a hug.
- But Jesus stops her and tells her to tell the other disciples.
- What I find in every encounter with Jesus after the resurrection each person lives were turned around and given a whole new course.
- Here we see Mary now with a new purpose—instead of a life of sorrow, she becomes a messenger for Jesus.
- What about you? Can you emotionally identify with Mary?
- Are you feeling sorrow because of the loss or the abandonment of a loved one?
- Do you feel lonely? Isolated? Alone?
- Maybe your circumstance causes deep pain and fear?
- The message for you today is to wipe the tears from your eyes, and see that Jesus calls you by name.
- EX: Credo conference. Communion, song my John McCutcheon. Song about a family calling their 8 children home for supper. Originally I did not like the song because it was too folksy for me. During communion worship leader called me by my name, I immediately started balling.
- He wants you to experience His love, tenderness, presence, identification, and his deep understanding.
- In your sorrow or pain, turn to Jesus. He calls out to you.
- Experience what the resurrected Christ can do for you.

Because of the Resurrection of Jesus:

1. Mary's Sorrow Turns to Joy (vv. 10-18)

2. The Disciple's Fear Turns to Peace (John 20:19-23)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

- Disciples are in a locked room
- They had narrowly escaped arrest with Jesus in Gethsemane.
 - They were probably discussing how to get out of the city without notice
 - Feared that they would be arrested in the same manner as Jesus was
 - There was a circulating story that the disciples had stolen the body.
- Can you imagine the fear they were experiencing?
- Jesus appears right in the middle of them. The first thing he says is "Peace be with you" which is the Hebrew equivalent to, "Shalom!"
 - Now if you were one of the disciples, would you be glad to see Jesus or more intensified fear?...FEAR!
 - Jesus again said, "Peace be with You!" This means far more than a blessing that God would keep you out of trouble, but it meant, "May God give you every good thing"
 - Jesus repeated His words because he wanted to give them more than just a greeting, but the true sense of the blessing.
- Jesus then gives them purpose, he continues speaking:

As the Father has sent me, so I send you

- He is sending them on a very important mission.
- To tell the world about the transforming love of Jesus Christ through the power of the resurrection.
- Jesus gives them the Holy Spirit and the important message of forgiveness.
 - Did Jesus take away the disciples fear?
 - NO! He gave them a reason and purpose to face their fears. YES!
- Can you relate to the disciples?
 - Are you filled with so much fear about tomorrow that you are hiding from God in your own private room?
- Jesus wants to offer you this morning his wonderful Shalom.
- He wants to give you peace to face your fears, the Holy Spirit to fill you and empower you, and He wants to give you a sense of purpose.
- ILL: Early in my ministry, I went to the local homeless shelter to watch a friend teach a bible study. When I got there, the director immediately asked me, where is your friend? I replied that I did not know. He then said, "Well pastor, are you ready in season and out of season to preach the Word of God?" I swallowed, and this deep sense of fear came over me. I can't do that unprepared! I remember praying, "Lord, where do you want me to start? HELP me!" After a few minutes that seemed like forever, "Uhhh, I guess so..." Our church was going through the book of Acts, and I opened the book and read from it and started preaching. Every few verses, a story from my life came to

mind to apply the text to their lives. Afterwards, person came to me, and told me that he could not relate to my life stories, but he has moved by the Word and God speaking through me to him. Afterwards I remember driving home with tears in my eyes because I have never felt the Holy Spirit use me like he just did. It was a watershed moment in my life.

- Because of the resurrection of Christ, we can face our fears, allow the Holy Spirit to use us, and give us a deep sense of purpose.

Because of the Resurrection of Jesus:

1. Mary's Sorrow Turns to Joy (vv. 10-18)

2. The Disciples Fear Turns to Peace (vv. 19-23)

3. Thomas' Doubt Turns to Faith (John 20:24-29)

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

- Thomas was not present at Jesus' first resurrection appearance to the disciples, and what is amazing, he obstinately did not believe their testimonies that Jesus was alive.
- He said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."
- One week later, the same locked room, Jesus appears directly to Thomas to take away his doubts.
- In this beautiful text, Jesus offers to Thomas the necessary proof for him to believe that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead.

Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.

- Thomas, probably falls to his knees in humility and shame because of his doubt and says, **"My Lord and my God!"**
- No one in the New Testament has ever said this to Jesus!
- This is an unusual and shocking phrase coming from a Jew because for a Jew to call another man "my Lord and my God" is blasphemous.
- The Jewish law was strictly monotheistic. For these words to deify another person was pure blasphemy!
- But Thomas in light of the resurrection, applied two titles of deity to Jesus as a man because his stubborn doubt was changed to faith.
- Thomas was completely convinced that Jesus did rise from the dead, and in order for him to do that, Jesus had to be the Son of God.
- Jesus showed Thomas that he was alive!
- Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:17 "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."
- Friends, what doubts do you have?

- In the same way Jesus made sure Thomas understood the resurrection, God in Christ wants to show you more of himself to take away your doubts do that you too can say, "My Lord and my God"

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was an incredible miraculous event.

I believe Jesus wants to change your—

- 1. Sorrow Into Joy** (vv. 10-18)
- 2. Fear Into Peace** (vv. 19-23)
- 3. Doubt Into Faith** (vv. 24-29)

Affirmation of Faith (Apostle's Creed)

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us unite our hearts in prayer, saying,
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the Church throughout the world, that as we celebrate the feast of Jesus' resurrection, we may renew our faith and strengthen our witness in Jesus' name.

God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For pastors, teachers, and ministers, that they be wise in leadership, humble in service, and fearless in the face of evil;

God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the governments of the world and its leaders, that they may practice compassion and reject the politics that use death and suffering as means of control;

God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our planet Earth, that people may be good stewards of its resources and share in its abundance;

God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the poor and the stranger, that they may receive a place of refuge, hope, and hospitality;

God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those in distress, that they may find healing for their pain and be restored to fullness of life;

God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our neighbors, that together we may dwell in harmony;
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our enemies, that we may love them and be agents of reconciliation in the name of Jesus;
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, receive these prayers we offer, and by the power of your Holy Spirit use us for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and now, with confidence as children of God, let us pray:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

Hymn Presbyterian Hymnal 118 "The Day of Resurrection"

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From this world unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light;

And listening to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace both now and evermore.