

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

April 4, 2021 - Easter Sunday

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Eric Hoey

Organ Prelude Kristin Jones, Director of Music

*Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

*Hymn PH 123 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

3 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!

2 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!

4 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

Jesus 'rising from the dead assures us that we, too, have been given new life. Let us repent of our sin before God and one another, certain of God's mercy.

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

All-knowing, all-powerful God, we confess that, even on this most holy day, we are unable to believe in the victory over death shown to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We confess our utter dependence on you not only for life but also for faith, hope, and love. Without your astonishing appearance to our ancestors and your stunning presence throughout the ages, we would be lost. Forgive us and transform us, that in every way our work and prayer will make whole what is broken and give peace on earth. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors, the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation. You shall not die but live. The rejected cornerstone has become your strength and your song. ~~As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,~~ I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, who lives and reigns ~~as Mother of us all,~~ now and forever.

***Gloria Patri (PH 579)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

Please turn and bow to someone out of respect and love— "The peace of Christ be with you"

Prayer for Illumination

Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your Word we may receive new life. Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Special Music "Easter Hymn" arr. Kinyon, Handbell Choir

Second Reading Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Children's Sermon Pastor Eric

- Good morning, Happy Easter!
- Today after the service, children, you will be participating in an Easter Egg hunt where you get to collect eggs that have candy and various toys.
- But Easter is not just about eggs and bunnies.
- Because many years ago, Jesus was crucified and placed in the tomb similar to this egg.
- We celebrate Easter because when the women came to the tomb, it was empty!
- Jesus told us that he would have to die, and in three days rise.
- We celebrate Easter because Jesus had risen from the dead so that we believe and know that everything he said was true.
- All we have to do is to place our faith in Him, and trust in the things that he said, and receive him into our hearts.

- That is far better than trying to get that last egg before someone else.

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SERMON "How God Handles Our Uncertainty"

Mark 16:1-8

April 4, 2021

- We have been doing a study in the Gospel of Mark where the writer communicates in the second half of the gospel that the disciples understood Jesus to be the long awaited Messiah.
- But they clearly did not understand how their presumed Messiah had to go to the cross to die and rise in three days.
- The disciples plans for a Messiah and Jesus plans as the Messiah were on two differing tracks.
- Jesus did everything he could to prepare them by telling the disciples on three separate occasions what exactly had to happen to him.
- He even warned them what was prophesied about **them** at his death.
- *Mark 14:27 And Jesus said to them, You will all become deserters; for it is written, I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.*
- So the tragic events of Jesus suffering and death, caused all the disciples to flee, and on the third day Jesus did exactly what he had told the disciples what would happen to him...He rose from the dead.
- But for me, from a leadership standpoint, this proposes a problem.
- How does God advance His redemptive plan when the key players never seemed to understand and are now scattered?
- How does God pull the scattered and afraid disciples together so that they are able to continue their ministry and fulfill God's redemptive plan for the world?"
- In this final section of scripture in Mark, I believe God enters into the messiness and uncertainty of the situation to begin to offer hope to all of us through the resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ.

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1. God Prompts Action (vv. 1-3)

[click] 1 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 They had been saying to one another, Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

- Notice the timing in the text, "When the sabbath was over"
- The women waited until the Sabbath was over before they went to the tomb.
- Notice what the women brought to the tomb for Jesus' body.
- They brought spices.
- Jews customarily anointed a body with aromatic oils because it neutralized the smell.
- But when a king is buried, spices were used.
- [click] When the Jews buried King Asa in 2 Chronicles 16:14 *They buried him in the tomb that he had hewn out for himself in the city of David. They laid him on a bier that had been filled with various kinds of spices prepared by the perfumer's art.*
- It is possible that the women brought spices in an attempt to remove the disgrace of the crucifixion for the Son of God who deserves no less than the treatment of a king.
- When you think about it, if they truly listened to Jesus—
 - He told them in earlier that he would be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again. (Mark 9:31)
- They should have known that his body was not there because it was risen.

- I can almost see the conversation among the women where one woman says, "OK, the men are gone! The Sabbath is over. We need to do something!"
- And another woman says, "But remember Jesus talked about rising in three days?"
- "We got to do something, we just can't sit here!!"
- You can categorize the women with all the disciples as confused as everyone else, or you can appreciate their God given desire to do something in a confusing, hopeless, uncertain situation.
- So they went...not to verify the resurrection, but to do something to calm their sorrows out of their love and respect for Jesus.
- Sometimes in the midst of confusion, uncertainty, anxiety, and fear God gives us a prompting to do something.
- Can you imagine how different the resurrection of Jesus Christ would be if the women simply stayed home?
- No one would have gone to the tomb, and no one would have known about God's greatest miracle to change the course of humanity.
- The lesson here is to not sit around and feel sorry about your broken dreams, but to lean into that God given impulse to do something.
- To make sense out of a situation that seems hopeless, anxious, and uncertain.
- For example, COVID has brought fear, uncertainty, isolation, anxiety, and hopelessness. Are we to sit around feeling sorry for ourselves, or does God want you to move out and let God prove that he is bigger than your situation?
- God's power and presence is shown when we trust Him in the things we do not understand.
- When we step out in uncertainty, we will find God guiding and directing our steps along the way to show us more of himself.
- I take my hat off to Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, and Salome for what they did on that incredible Easter morning.

[click] God enters into the messiness and uncertainty of life-

2. God Provides Solutions (vv. 4-5)

[click] *4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side;*

- On the way to the tomb, there was a concern about the large round stone that is placed on the front of entrance to the tomb.
- They were worried about who is going to roll the stone away so that they can tend to Jesus' body.
- In Matthew's gospel the tomb was sealed with Roman guard.
- Yes, also in Matthew's account of women going to the tomb, there was an earthquake, and the guard passed out, but Mark does not elaborate on those details but gets straight to the facts.
- When the women came to the tomb, they immediately saw that the stone had been rolled back.
- As they entered the tomb, Mark says a young man dressed in a white robe appeared.
- When Mark describes this person wearing white, he does not say that is was an angel like the other gospels do, but implied some angelic being because shining white clothes are usually associated with heavenly beings.
- ▶ So the women move out to the tomb in action, God then provides some solutions for them.
- ▶ He moved the stone and also provided an angelic being to provide answers for them.
- ▶ Have you ever been in a situation that was so dark, and bleak, and uncertain?

- ▶ Have you ever faced a challenge with an insurmountable “stone” that prevented you from moving past it?
- ▶ In the same way, God provided solutions for the women as they stepped out of their anxiety and uncertainty, I believe God wants to show us some solutions when we move forward in areas that bring fear, anxiety, messiness, and confusion.
- ▶ God’s solutions are available to us because it teaches us to totally depend upon Him.
- ▶ Remember when Jesus was praying in the garden?
- ▶ “Not my will be done, but thy will be done”

[click] God enters into the messiness and uncertainty of life-

3. God Brings Hope (v. 6)

[click] *and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.*

- The women in the midst of their situation were “alarmed” at the presence of the angelic being.
- The angelic being tells them not to be alarmed.
- What he means is, “Stop the fear and anxiety, and instead rejoice, for this is a day of cheer.”
- This young man does three things to offer hope for these women.
 - He also connects with their reason for being there in the tomb by saying, “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth.” This helps them see that this young man was not a mere stranger but a being from God who has a message for them to hear.
 - Then he assures them by saying, “He has been raised; he is not here.” Reading between the lines, they probably remembered the word of Jesus that he had to rise in three days.
 - Then he offers the women proof, “Look, there is the place they laid him.”
- Notice the angel could have rebuked the women for their lack of understanding of what Jesus said, and their lack of faith to believe it.
- The rebuke does not happen.
- Now bear in mind that an angelic messenger does not speak on their own, but as messengers, they bring the message from God, himself!
- The HOPE that is offered to the women is that God connects, assures, and offers proof that what Jesus said had come true!!!
- Biblical hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised will come to fulfillment and the unshakable strength in God’s faithfulness.
- *Psalm 44:6-8 For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me. But you have saved us from our foes, and have put to confusion those who hate us. In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever.*
- The young messenger offers HOPE in a profound way to these women on Easter morning.
- The Easter message is that God is a God of hope, and he offers that hope to us everyday when we walk in faith.

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4. God Offers Direction (vv. 7-8)

[click] *7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” 8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

- The last thing the angelic being tells the women is to DO something.

- If you think about it, these women have been commissioned by a messenger from God to do something about the news that Jesus has risen from the dead.
- In verse 7, they had to tell, "his disciples and Peter" a message.
- Here is how God is responding to the anxiety and uncertainty.
- God is using these women to pull the discipleship training school of Jesus that seemingly had gone awry, back together.
- What I appreciate about this is how the angel specifically mentions the disciples, who were scattered, and Peter, who denied knowing Jesus, THEY have not been forgotten by God.
- He did not write them off as unfaithful, but it is like God is giving them a second chance, and He is using the women to help Him get things back together.
- The women were critical for the re-initiation of God redemptive plan.
- They were now given a mission to become a part of God redemptive plan.
- The last part of the text implies nothing happened, but once they got over their life changing experience, I believe they were used significantly to pull the disciples back together so that they could be poised to accomplish God's redemptive plan.
- When the post resurrection plan of God seems to be a mess, God enters into the lives of the women to:
 1. God Prompts Action (vv. 1-3)
 2. God Provides Solutions (vv. 4-5)
 3. God Brings Hope (v. 6)
 4. God Offers Direction (vv. 7-8)
- Donald English in the Bible Speaks for Today says, "Faith is to be a daily exercise of walking to where the Lord has gone, believing him to be there and finding him to be so. It is not a procession of cast-iron certainties, but an experience of trust in him who lived, and died, and rose to be with them forever."
- Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, through faith in Jesus Christ, we have the assurance that God will be with us in the most difficult, messy, insecure, fearful, and confusing times of our lives.

Offering

With compassion for our needs, the Risen One stands beside us, calling our names. Let us, with that same mercy, bring forth tithes and offerings to relieve the suffering of this world and to proclaim far and wide the good news of resurrection life.

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessing flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise him above the heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

*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.

*Affirmation of Faith (Apostle's Creed)

Minister:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

All:

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.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**Words of Institution
Communion
Prayer**

***Hymn** PH 118 The Day of Resurrection

1 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.

2 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.

3 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**

Now may the truth of the empty tomb—the astonishing reality of Jesus' resurrection—keep you fearless and sure that you will see the Resurrected One again and again in this life. May the power of God's endless love surround you and guide you, this day and always.

***Organ Postlude** (please be seated for the postlude)