

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

April 17, 2022

Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Day

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

- Join us for refreshments and fellowship after Service
- Also, the children will be having their Easter egg hunt... we will meet in the fellowship hall and then go outside in the front of the church for the egg hunt. You are all welcome to come watch them in pure delight!
- HANDBELL CHOIR The Handbell Choir will meet Wednesday, April 20th at 6:00 pm.
- YOUNG MOTHERS' GATHERING Come join us this Friday, April 22nd at Roast Coffee (136 2nd Street) at 8 am for coffee, muffins, conversation, and encouragement! Contact Cynthia if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!
- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We need help with the nursery and children's church on Sunday mornings. If you would like to volunteer to serve in these areas on Sunday mornings or if you can help with prepping materials during the weekdays please contact the church office or Cynthia.
- Presbyterian Women announcement

- CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS Children and Parents remember that you can pick up children's worship bags at the front of the sanctuary with activity sheets and treats!
- SUNDAY SCHOOL We have Sunday school classes at 9:00 am. The Adult Sunday School class uses "The Wired Word" to look at current issues in our world and draw biblical application from scripture. The class is led by Tom Mioduszowski. The Children's class is led by Helen Posey.
- ZOOM STUDY [See insert] We will begin our study on *The Bible Jesus Read* on Monday, May 2nd at 7:00 pm. Meeting ID: 984 3627 7403, Passcode: 500727
- THANK YOU to everyone who helped with preparation and/or served in any effort to make our worship experiences special during the Lenten season. Your time, talents and treasures are greatly appreciated!
- Christian Community Outreach The requested need for April is deodorant.

Organ Prelude

Kristin Jones, Director of Music

Greeting

Early on the first day of the week, the disciples of Jesus went to the tomb where he had been buried only to find that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Friends, we gather here as Christ's disciples, on the first day of the week, to celebrate the good news of the gospel: Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!

*Call to Worship

Rejoice and be glad:

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Rejoice and be glad:

Heaven and earth will never be the same!

Rejoice and be glad:

Christ is risen! 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!

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!

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!

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**

We know that God shows no partiality, but welcomes and forgives all those who repent and believe. Let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we have heard the good news: how on the third day, Christ rose again. Still we look for the living among the dead. You rolled away the stone from the tomb.

Still we look for the living among the dead.

You sent messengers to proclaim the gospel.

Still we look for the living among the dead.

You were faithful to your promise; you have done wonderful things!

Still we look for the living among the dead.

[silent confession]

Forgive us, Lord, we pray. Teach us to trust your promise and to believe the good news of salvation:

Christ is alive; Jesus is risen from the dead. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

When Christ comes to reign, he will put an end to every ruler, every power, every authority; he will put every enemy under his feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

***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**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's Peace.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to believe the good news; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did

not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 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.

Anthem Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Liebergen
Rick Huffman, trumpet

Christ lives today! Rejoice with Praise!
To God with grateful songs we raise!
The Lord is risen from the grave,
The Son of God now lives to save.

Sing out with joy! The day is done!
Give thanks and praise the Holy One.
Let all creation lift on high
The Lord who lives, no more to die!

Second 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."

Children's Sermon Pastor Eric

- How many children here play video games?
- What happens when you make a mistake?
- You get to start over?
- Is life that way? When you make a mistake, is there a reset button to start over?
- Today in our Scripture lesson it says, "everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."
- Today, Easter Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Because of the resurrection Jesus, God offers us forgiveness of our sins"
- This means we can turn to God when we do wrong, and God will forgive us in the same way as pushing a reset button.

SERMON "What's the Big Deal about the Resurrection?"

Acts 10:34-43

- We live in a culture that loves a good story.
- Many of us hear stories from our childhood even to adulthood.
- That is why the movie industry does so well because we all love a good story.
- Whether it is sitting at the feet of grandma or grandpa hearing stories, stories have a way of captivating us and craving for more.
- Jesus told stories.
- The parables were a way to woo people in and show them a different world and a different way of looking at things.
- At the end of Jesus' stories, when the story was finished, the listener is left quite different from where then had began.
- They had changed because of the way their way of looking at the world had changed
- When we come to our text this morning in Acts, the disciples no doubt continued to retell the stories which Jesus had told.
- But after Jesus' resurrection, God calls Peter to do something he had never thought of himself to do, but to share the message of Jesus to a people Peter never saw himself doing.
- Let me explain the context.
- In Acts 10, Cornelius was a Roman centurion who was a commander in the Italian Regiment of the Roman military.
- He was known as a God fearing man who gave generously and prayed regularly.
- He had a vision that told him his prayers have been heard, and was asked to send for Simon Peter.
- The next day, Peter has a vision as well to get up and eat all the traditionally impure and unclean foods that God has now declared clean. (3X)
- The men arrive at Peter's home and the Holy Spirit prompts him to go with them to this appointment at Cornelius' home. Upon Peter's arrival, there was a large crowd at his home.
- Peter and Cornelius met and shared stories.
- v. 33 "Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."
- Peter had a captive audience to hear the story of Jesus and how his resurrection makes all the difference in the world.

1. Offers Good News to Everybody

*34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching **peace** by Jesus Christ —**he is Lord of all**. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee*

- When you see, "Then Peter began to speak" is sometimes used to introduce a weighty utterance.
- What comes out of Peter's mouth next is about the great discovery that Peter has made.
- The discovery that he has made is declared when he says, "God shows no partiality" - This is saying that God shows no racial favoritism.
- Can you imagine what Peter is saying here?
- Peter is sweeping away centuries of religious and racial prejudice!
- No longer was God only for the Jews, and no longer was Jesus a Jewish Messiah.
- The Jews of Peter's day lived by the doctrine that God had made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants and that **they** were God's chosen people.
- They despised the Gentiles because, according to the Jews, God had rejected the Gentiles and had withheld his blessings from them.

- Cornelius was a Gentile, despised by the Jews, but Acts 10:2 says, "He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God."
 - In verses prior to this, Peter says to the household of Cornelius, "You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean."
 - Peter was used by God to communicate that faith in Jesus Christ is for everybody.
- 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, *preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.***
- The gospel is the good news of peace is because apart from the work of Jesus Christ, we are not at peace.
 - In fact we are at war with God.
 - This is why the message of Jesus needs to be given to all because people need to find peace with God.
 - Jesus was God's agent in bringing about peace between God and humanity.
- God was teaching Peter to stop his narrow understanding of what is acceptable to God and what is not.
 - God's attitude toward people is not determined by external criteria like appearance, race, nationality, or class.
 - God accepts people based upon their heart: those who fear him and do what is right.
 - In a very dramatic way, Peter learns that God is breaking down the walls of religious and racial prejudice that had been a part of the Jewish culture for hundreds of years.
 - No longer was God only for the Jews, and no longer was Jesus only a Jewish Messiah.
 - But here we see that the message of the resurrection of Jesus coming to Caesarea from Peter as he explains the message spreading throughout Judea.
 - WHY, because in our text it says, "Jesus Christ—he is Lord of ALL!!!!"
 - The resurrection is a big deal because of the global implications of the message.

2. Endorses God's Redemption Through His Son

*after the baptism that John announced: 38 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.*

- The word Messiah means "Anointed One"
- So when you see Peter saying, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth," he was saying, "God declared Him the Messiah" that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth.
- God was endorsing Jesus to be the Messiah
- When Jesus was in the synagogue reading from the scroll of Isaiah, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me;"
- God has declared Jesus to be the anointed one or the Messiah.
- This also was declared at Jesus' baptism when God descended upon Jesus like a dove saying, "This is my beloved, whom I am well pleased."
- Again a picture of God's anointing declaring Jesus to be the long awaited Messiah.
- We also see in these verses that God was actively involved as He authenticated and authorized Jesus' ministry in v. 38.
 - God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit
 - God gave Jesus power to heal and free the oppressed
 - God was with him.
- All three actions demonstrating the authority and authenticity of God upon the life and ministry of Jesus.
- EX: In May 3, 2023 the RealID compliant driver's license will be needed to be shown to fly within the US.
- In the same way, God fully authenticates Jesus' ministry with the Holy Spirit.
- This gave him the power to stand against Satan, casting out demons, healing the crippled and the sick, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead, and proclaiming the gospel.

- It gave him the power to heal and spiritual release for those who are imprisoned by Satan's bondage.
- All this could not have been possible without God empowering and blessing the ministry of Jesus.

3. Demonstrates God's Power Over Sin

39 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;

- In Peter's speech to the household of Cornelius, he claims that he was a witness to all that Jesus did in his ministry in Judea and Jerusalem.
- By telling his audience that he is an eyewitness, Peter portrays himself as a credible source of information about Jesus.
- What specifically did Peter get to witness?
- Peter witnessed Jesus death and the power of God in his resurrection.
- Was this Jesus resurrection thing made up?
- Peter would emphatically say, "NO!" because he was there to see it all.
- He got to see his ministry, his death, and his resurrection!

40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 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.

- The fact that God raised Jesus from the dead was significant to Cornelius because it is the same God he had followed!
- Here we have is a message to someone who had been on the outside of Judiasm, pressing his nose hard against the glass to look inside: who respected and valued the Jewish traditions, and was doing his best to honor the God of Israel as far as he was able as a Roman citizen.
- If you look at Peter's message from the beginning (and how many times God shows up), you will see he tells the story about Jesus as a story of God's actions.
 - I truly understand that **God** shows no partiality...Who shows no partiality?
 - Who sent the message of peace by Jesus Christ?
 - Who anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit?
 - Who gave Jesus power to heal and release the oppressed?
 - Who was with Jesus throughout his ministry?
 - Who raised Jesus from the dead?
 - Who is ordained Jesus to judge the living and the dead?
- The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that God is orchestrating His global plan for all of humanity—
 - Proving that Jesus is the Son of God (Romans 1:4)
 - Demonstrating his power over death
 - Reminding us that Jesus' promises are trustworthy

42 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.

- Peter was commanded by God to communicate this message about Jesus.
- God creates this divine appointment to communicate to Cornelius about Jesus being the son of God who has the authority to judge the living and the dead.
- Without the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, humanity would still be stuck in their sins with no avenue for redemption.

4. Offers Forgiveness of Sin

43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

- Here is the Good News of Peter's gospel message.
- Through the efficacy of what Jesus has done, "everyone who believes in him receives the forgiveness of sins."

- This is the heart of the gospel: Christ cleanses every sinner who comes to him in faith and repentance.
- It is almost as if Peter was saying to Cornelius, that his knowledge of God is not enough...just following God, trying to do good from afar never really satisfies—because you never know when you have done enough to satisfy God.
- We all do it! We try to do good things hoping that God will look upon us more favorably...going to church on the holidays, doing good things, giving charitably.
- We really are a lot like Cornelius.
- The Good News is that because of Jesus Christ and his ability to forgiveness our sins, all we need to do is to believe in him.
- ILL: Dr. Rich Dorst in his book, *Journey to Freedom*, writes of a priest who was carrying a secret burden of sin.
 - Even though he had told God he was sorry, and truly meant it, for some reason he couldn't accept God's forgiveness and he had no peace or joy--only guilt.
 - A woman in his congregation claimed to have visions of speaking with Christ. She felt like Jesus would tell her things that nobody else could know.
 - The priest, quite skeptical of her claims, challenged her: "The next time you have one of these 'visions,' I want you to ask the Lord what sin I committed while I was in seminary, 20 years ago!"
 - She readily agreed and went home. When she returned to the church a couple of days later, the priest said: "Well, did Jesus visit you? Did the Lord speak to you?"
 - "Oh, yes, Father, He certainly did!"
 - "Well, what did the Lord tell you?"
 - "The Lord said, 'I forgot, and he should, too!'"
- When we have the forgiveness of sin, we are given a blank slate.
- We do not have to live under the bondage of past sins, but we are made new.
- That means we no longer have to run around in fear of God wallowing in our guilt and shame.
- Because of the resurrection of Jesus we have a chance to make things right with God through the simple belief and faith in Jesus Christ.
- Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven and forgotten!

CLOSE: story

The famed TV producer of the eerie and bizarre, Alfred Hitchcock, hosted his own hit TV show of a generation ago. One episode in 1987 (a remake of the original 1964 story) told the tale of a murderous woman who, once condemned to prison, vowed she'd never be held captive and would surely find a way out.

She studied her surroundings and soon took note of a gravedigger, whose job it was to cart away deceased inmates for burial in the plots just beyond the prison confines. He was old and moved slowly, as his eyesight was badly impaired by cataracts. She approached him one day to bribe him into helping her ESCAPE.

Her plan was simple: When the death bell tolled, heralding the death of another inmate, she would make her way to the morgue and climb into the coffin with the deceased. He (the gravedigger) would then wheel the coffin to the plot, bury it in a shallow grave, then come back after dark to release her. All this in exchange for the money to have the cataract surgery to restore his sight. The old man agreed, and together they waited for their opportunity.

Time passed, when suddenly the woman heard the death toll. To her ears, it was the sound of freedom bells chiming. The scheme went just as planned. She waited an appropriate amount of time, slinked her way to the basement, and slipped quietly into the morgue. She felt her way through the dark room to the coffin laid out on the cart. Opening the lid, she crawled inside and pulled the lid shut.

Soon she felt the cart moving. She could almost taste her freedom. Moments later she felt the thud as the coffin was lowered into the ground. She heard the dirt as it hit the lid. Then silence. She waited in anticipation. Minutes turned to hours with no relief. Panicked, she struck a match, surveying the situation. To her utter horror, she discovered that she was face to face with ... the gravedigger!

- The woman foolishly placed her life in the hands of an unreliable deliverer - one who had no more power over the grave than her.
- So, in whose trust have you placed your hope of deliverance? Buddha? Mohammed? Yourself?
- Above all else, make sure that when you strike your match your deliverer isn't in the grave with you!
- Jesus Christ rose from the grave to become our deliverer.
- Easter is a celebration of what Jesus had done for all of humanity because he has risen. He has risen indeed!

***Hymn** PH 106 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks! (vs. 1,2,3)

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
He is the King of creation (Refrain)

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth,
Jesus has died and has risen (Refrain)

3 We have been crucified with Christ;
now we shall live forever (Refrain)

Offering

We belong to Christ Jesus; all things are his, for he is Lord of all.

***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**

We praise you, O God, and give you thanks that you have given us such joy, such grace, and such hope, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let our lives be proof of that good news. Let all our words and actions, our love and service bear witness to your resurrection power; for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus Christ. 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

Living God, hear our prayer:

Make of this world your new creation!

Before we call, you answer, O Lord. Before we speak, you know our words. Let there be joy in Jerusalem, and peace among all nations.

Living God, hear our prayer:

Make of this world your new creation!

Let sounds of weeping and cries of distress turn to shouts of joy and laughter.

Living God, hear our prayer:

Make of this world your new creation!

Let infants grow and thrive; let the old dance like children. Let every person find a home and enjoy the fruit of their labor.

Living God, hear our prayer:

Make of this world your new creation!

Let the wolf and the lamb live in peace; let no one hurt or destroy another.

Living God, hear our prayer:

Make of this world your new creation!

Show us, O God, the holy mountain you have prepared, the new heaven and new earth you have promised, so that we may be glad and rejoice in your presence forever; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, 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 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 (Please joins us in the fellowship hall for refreshments, and don't forget to take home the lilies that you ordered for our beautiful service this morning)

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.

*Organ Postlude (please be seated for the postlude)