

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 12, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

EASTER

April 12, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Easter Sunday, the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and all that this sacred event implies—the victory of life over death, love over fear, hope over despair. While our celebration is dramatically different this year, as we remain in isolation out of a desire to limit the spread of COVID-19, the good news of the Risen Christ remains the same and thus we celebrate our great hope in eternity. As always, we celebrate through the gift of sacred music—today hearing our majestic organ, singing a great Easter hymn, and hearing a quartet with piano and trumpet. We will hear a personal Easter story from our longest standing member, Bill Simpson, who joined FBC Raleigh on March 29, 1936. And we are guided by texts that point to our hope. The reading from Jeremiah provides a hopeful word for our nation, as the prophet declares God's vision of a time when the people will return from exile and dwell again in the land. In like manner, we look forward to the time when we will return from a kind of self-imposed exile to our normal rhythm of life in this land. The reading from Acts presents Peter's sermon to a gathering of Gentiles, including a clear word about the centrality of Jesus' death and resurrection to Christian faith. The reading from Matthew tells the story of two women named Mary encountering an angel, discovering an empty tomb, and ultimately meeting the Risen Christ. The sermon, which is rooted primarily in the reading from Matthew but makes reference to the other texts, explores the ways in which the good news of Easter has been celebrated by the church throughout the ages—in times of war and peace, sickness and health, persecution and establishment. Significant challenges have often altered the manner in which we celebrate our hope, as significant challenges do today, but no challenge has or ever will stop the celebration. Nothing can change the basic reality we celebrate—that Christ has risen, indeed, alleluia—and thus hope will always prevail.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

“Prelude in G Major”
Eddie Abernathy, organist

J.S. Bach

The Trinity Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves “as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship.”

The Call to Worship (responsive)¹

LEADER: Christ is risen.

PEOPLE: **Christ is risen indeed!**

LEADER: Hope is alive . . .

PEOPLE: **A new age is dawning.**

LEADER: Joy is alive . . .

PEOPLE: **Redemption is here.**

LEADER: Love is alive . . .

PEOPLE: **Death cannot harm us.**

All: God of life, we worship you. God of creation, we praise you. God of revelation, we learn from you. God of resurrection, we celebrate you.



1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
 2. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
 3. Lives a-gain our glo-ri-ous King, Al-le-lu-ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!

All cre-a-tion, join to say Al-le-lu-ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat-tle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
 Fol-lowing our ex-alt-ed Head, Al-le-lu-ia!

Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Death in vain for-bids him rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Once he died our souls to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re-ply, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Christ has o-pened par-a-dise. Al-le-lu-ia!
 Where thy vic-to-ry, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al-le-lu-ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
 MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, arr.

EASTER HYMN
 7.7.7.7. Alleluias

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Open for us, O God, the words of the witnesses, received by the faithful and handed on to us. Make us free to hear and not hold back that we may live in the joy of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, who calls us by our name. Blessed be the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia! Amen.

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. ²Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. ⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. ⁵Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. ⁶For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: “Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

The Morning Prayer

The 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Sermon

"Easter Can't Be Stolen Either"

Christopher Chapman

The Word of Encouragement (unison)

Colossians 3:1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The Musical Response

"Concertato on *Thine Is the Glory*"³

arr. Robert J. Powell

Quartet: Tonya Carter, Alan Taylor, Kimberly Taylor, Wyatt Yelverton

Caleb Carter, trumpet

Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, Risen conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, Scatters fear and gloom;
Let his church with gladness Hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; Death hath lost its sting.
Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, Glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, Through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan To thy home above.
Thine is the glory, Risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

The Affirmation of Faith

Bill Simpson

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction

The Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, sending us into the world with the love of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As you go, remember, “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.”

The Postlude

“*Finale* from Symphony No. 1”
Eddie Abernathy, organist

Louis Vierne

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We are grateful to Eddie Abernathy for serving as today’s guest organist.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the April 5 birth of Sophie Adelaide Gill, daughter of **Kelly Lewis Gill** and Josh Gill, granddaughter of **Mary Jane and Keith Lewis**, and great-granddaughter of **Marie Lewis**.

All church activities are cancelled until further notice.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. We have received \$14,614 toward our goal of \$20,000.



Easter Gifts

IN HONOR OF:

Bonnie Baker, by Fannie Memory Mitchell

Bonnie Baker, by Linda Sears

Nick, Lauren, Caroline, and Baby Bradley, by Shirley and John Hobson

Dr. Graham and Carolyn Crutchfield, by the Hager family

Their mothers, Polly (Wilkins) Garrard and Joan Hobson, by Shirley and John Hobson

Her son, E. Scott Harlow, by Brenda Jordan

Asher and Ryder Helms, by Sterling and Myra Brickell

The Lewis children, by Marie Lewis

Fannie Memory Mitchell, by Anne and Matt Bullard

Fannie Memory Mitchell, by Brenda Jordan

Sonia Moore, by Marchelle and Greg Flowers

Charles and Jamie Petty, by Allison, Tanner, Caleb, Tom, Ben, and Dylan

IN MEMORY OF:

Maurice Baker, by Linda Sears

Jerry Blanchard (Granddaddy), by Carol, Brantley, Brantley Jr, and Charles Blanchard

Hiroko Boswell, by the Japanese Baptist Church of Raleigh

Their parents, by Sterling and Myra Brickell

Blayne Brown, by Chase and Jessica Helms

James Clary and their parents, by Margaret Clary

Corbin Cooper, her husband and his father, by Joann and John Cooper

Nelson Cooper, her son and his brother, by Joann and John Cooper

Ivie Lawrence Clayton, by Rebecca Clayton

Mack Conway, by Lauren Teague

Madge and O.H. Dillard, by Marie Dillard Andrews

H.F., Ginny, and Forest Flowers, by Greg and Marchelle Flowers

Jim, Penny, and Jimmy Frisbie, by Peggy Frisbie
Penny Frisbie, by the Community Table Sunday School class
Douglas and Evelyn Hager, by the Hager family
Rev. Joy Crutchfield Hager, by the Hager family
Her gram, Hazel Harris, by Holly Ivel
Anna Helms, by Sterling and Myra Brickell
Anna Helms, by Chase and Jessica Helms
Their fathers, Edward Hobson and John Wilkins, by Shirley and John Hobson
Earl and Mildred Hostetler, by Rebecca Clayton
Kay Huggins, by the Huggins family
Her parents, Mary Frances and Ernie Johnson, by Emily Johnson
Her husband, John R. Jordan Jr., by Brenda Jordan
Sheila's cousin, Tim Lawson, by John and Sheila Hite
Dr. John M. Lewis, Pastor Emeritus, by Marie Dillard Andrews
William (Bill) Lewis, by Marie Lewis
Scott Lingafelt, by Chase and Jessica Helms
Frances Mann, by John Shell and Tara Mann
Takehiko Matsumoto, by the Japanese Baptist Church of Raleigh
Thornton Mitchell, by Anne and Matt Bullard
Thornton W. Mitchell, by Fannie Memory Mitchell
Dick Moore, by Marchelle and Greg Flowers
Her mother, Sarah Moore, by Brenda Jordan
Joe Overman (Papa), by Carol, Brantley, Brantley Jr., and Charles Blanchard
Dr. Frank P. and Rebecca J. Powers, by Frank, Nancy, and Katy Powers
Judge Edwin S. Preston Jr., by his loving family
Howard Shell, by John Shell and Tara Mann
Elmore Snead, by Brenda Snead
Ed Vick, by Laura Anne Vick
Carroll and Mary Parks Weathers, by Jane Weathers
Marianne Webb, by Joe Webb
Elmo Williams, by Alice Williams