

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 26, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Third Sunday of Easter, a season when we continue to marvel at the wonder of the resurrection and when we wrestle with the faith and doubt such a miracle inspires. We continue to meet virtually, unable to gather together physically as we try to limit the spread of COVID-19. Today's text asks us to contemplate what it means to have one's understanding of the world completely disrupted, considering how humanity functions in a world of upheaval. It is as timely now as it has ever been. We are grateful that, even in times of chaos, we are able to find ways to connect to each other and to rely on familiar ritual, space, and routine. Today we are able to worship through prayer and spoken word, through music heard and sung, through images that inspire and uplift. We are also grateful that this common bond pushes us toward a deeper understanding of life, of ourselves, and even of our God...although we also know that this growth is challenging.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"The Church's One Foundation"

arr. Anna Laura Page

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)

from Psalm 116

LEADER: What shall I return to the Lord for all God's bounty to me?

PEOPLE: **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,**

LEADER: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people.

PEOPLE: **Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of the faithful.**

LEADER: O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid. You have loosed my bonds.

PEOPLE: **I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.**

The Invocation

Lynn Lingafelt

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Hearts to heaven and voices raise:  
sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
sing to God a hymn of praise;  
he who on the cross a victim  
for the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,  
now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
Death at last has met defeat:  
see the ancient powers of evil  
in confusion and retreat:  
once he died, and once was buried:  
now he lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ the world's Redeemer,  
whom we worship and adore.

Christ is risen, we are risen!  
Set your hearts on things above:  
there in all the Father's glory  
lives and reigns our King of love;  
hear the word of peace he brings us,  
see his wounded hands and side;  
now let every wrong be ended,  
every sin be crucified.

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glory be to God on high!  
Alleluia to the Savior  
who has gained the victory!  
Alleluia to the Spirit,  
fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
to the Triune Majesty!

### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)<sup>2</sup>

Leah Reed

**God our teacher, open the scriptures to us; let us hear all that was told about Jesus Christ that we may know him, risen from the dead, and go out to tell of his love. In his name we pray. Amen.**

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>36</sup>Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>17</sup>If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. <sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

**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.**

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Musical Meditation	"Dona Nobis Pacem/Amazing Grace"	arr. Anita Burroughs-Price Anita Burroughs-Price, harp
The Sermon	"Someone Takes a Journey and a Stranger Comes to Town"	Trey Davis
The Musical Response	"Be Thou My Vision"	arr. Anita Burroughs-Price Anita Burroughs-Price, harp

#### 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	"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"	arr. Anna Laura Page
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<sup>1</sup> Words: Christopher Wordsworth, 1862, rev. *Hymns for Today's Church* © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-708116. All rights reserved.

<sup>2</sup> From *Season of Ash and Fire, Prayers and Liturgies for Lent and Easter*, by Blair Gilmore Meeks, © 2003 Abingdon Press. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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Sympathy to **Mary Barham** on the April 22 death of her brother, Earl Grey Jackson.

We are grateful for the lovely music provided by Anita Burroughs-Price, who serves as principal harpist for the NC Symphony.

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 \$14,789 toward our goal of \$20,000.



