

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 11, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 11, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Second Sunday of Easter, the season in which we celebrate the good news of resurrection and consider its implications for our lives. We sing hymns of praise to the God who offers us hope, we lift up prayers for new life, and we hear familiar texts which point to the basis of our hope. The sermon explores the reading from John in which all of the disciples are on a journey of trying to make sense of the possibility that Jesus is alive, even after he has been put to death. We often single out Thomas as the one who doubts and then demands proof, but the only thing that is different about Thomas is that he is absent when Jesus first appears to the others. We all seek some basis for belief, some reason to trust that our hope is more than wishful thinking. Where do we find such hope in this time, so far removed from the time John describes? While we may answer this question in different ways, they all ultimately point to the same reality — our experience with the Spirit of the Risen Christ. There is no way to prove to anyone else that this experience is genuine, but we don't need to — it is all we need to believe and find hope. Worship is our response to this hope and quite often a way that we rediscover it.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

“The Strife Is O'er”  
Sue Crocker, organ

arr. Charles Callahan

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 133

LEADER: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

PEOPLE: **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

LEADER: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

PEOPLE: **For there God ordained a blessing: life forevermore!**

The Invocation

Lynn Lingafelt

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
 4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
 scorn or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.  
 midst of life, our Sav - ior in the God - head reigns.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 4:32–35

Leah Reed

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

1 John 1:1 – 2:2

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— <sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer

Michael Hood

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, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

<sup>19</sup>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.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>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.”

<sup>26</sup>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.” <sup>27</sup>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.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>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.” <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

## The Musical Meditation

“Thine is the Glory”<sup>2</sup>

arr. Catherine McMichael

Elaine Holley, violin; John Holley, viola

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 grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

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. [Refrain]

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. [Refrain]

## The Sermon

“Seeking Proof and Finding Experience”

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Hymn of Discipleship

“Good Christians All, Rejoice”<sup>3</sup>

GELOBT SEI GOTT

1. Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2. The Lord of life is risen to - day; death's might - y stone is  
3. We praise in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life, which  
4. Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way: let ev - ery tongue re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Descant *Refrain*

“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!”  
“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le lu - ia!”

## 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

"Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing"  
Sue Crocker, organ

arr. Gilbert Martin

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Today's Worship Helpers are Luke, Jay, and Meg Foster.

## Calendar Highlights • April 11–17, 2021

Sunday, April 11

- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
- 7th and 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- High School Sunday School (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 11:00 Virtual Worship Service (YouTube)
- 2:00 1st and 2nd Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 4:00 Three-year-olds – Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
- 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)
- 6:30 Youth Group (Church parking lot)

Monday, April 12

- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 8:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 13

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 6:15 Middle School Gathering (Ellis home)
- 6:30 High School Bible Study (Helms home)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 14

- 5:30 1st–5th Grade Boys Music & Missions (Pegram yard)
- 6:15 Centerpoint
- 7:00 Youth Movie Night (Netflix Teleparty)

Thursday, April 15

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)