

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 4, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
EASTER

April 4, 2021

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. This year's celebration feels a bit more profound since we have endured a year of suffering with COVID-19 and are just beginning to see the light of hope arising with the arrival of vaccines. Some of us will worship in-person at Fletcher Park while others will join a virtual celebration live streamed on our YouTube channel, but in both ways we celebrate the Good News of Easter with the hope of our own good news on the horizon. As always, we celebrate through the gift of sacred music, the reading of familiar texts, and our prayers for the hope of resurrection to transform our world. The sermon provides a first-person reflection from one of the characters in the traditional Easter reading from John 20 who brings us a genuine word of hope for our time. Yet again this year, even after a year of laboring under the weight of a pandemic, we are still able to say that nothing can change the basic reality we celebrate today — Christ has risen, indeed, alleluia — and thus hope will always prevail.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude "Easter Alleluia Medley" arr. Gary Lanier
Sue Crocker, piano; Caleb Carter, trumpet

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 Introit "Sound the Trumpet" Mark Patterson
Tonya and Catherine Carter, sopranos; Caleb Carter, trumpet

The Call to Worship (responsive)¹ Michael Hood

LEADER: Christ is risen.

PEOPLE: **He is risen indeed!**

LEADER: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

PEOPLE: **God has swallowed up death forever and wiped away the tears from all faces.**

LEADER: And so, we set our minds on things that are above.

PEOPLE: **We rejoice in the marvelous things God is doing.**

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 - rious 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!

Powerful and loving God, you have raised Jesus Christ from the dead. God, raise us too. May fresh life burst among us like buds awakening to the spring. May shells of distrust and self-hatred which keep us from loving be broken away so that new life can emerge. May new community spring up where fear has kept us from the stranger. Keep us patient in making peace and building justice. Teach us to trust the slow process from seed to stem, from stem to flower, from flower to fruit. Breathe on us with your Spirit, through the risen Christ. Amen.

The Greeting of Worshipers

Lynn Lingafelt

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On 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. ⁷And 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. ⁸Then 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.

⁹It 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.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

The Gospel

John 20:1–18

¹Early 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. ²So 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.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and 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. ¹³They 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.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus 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.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus 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.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful! Let earth its song be - gin!



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
The world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend;



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "all hail" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our Joy that has no end.



LEADER: Woman, why are you weeping? Who is the one you seek?

PEOPLE: **They've carried away the body of my Lord, and nobody knows where they've laid him!**

LEADER: O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn! O Mary, don't you weep! Why do you seek the living here among the dead?

PEOPLE: **How can this be, this miracle I've seen? I'll run to tell the others, but who will dare believe?**

LEADER: O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn! O Mary, don't you weep! Have they forgotten what he said, that he would rise again?

PEOPLE: **Yes, they think I tell an idle tale; I show them the cloths, but they sit and wonder.**

LEADER: O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn! O Mary, don't you weep! Do they not know that none shall die, that all will live forever?

PEOPLE: **They stay at home, they close their shutters; the Teacher's message goes unheeded, it falls on deafened ears.**

LEADER: O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn! O Mary, don't you weep! 'Cause when you get to heaven you're going to sing and shout; nobody there is going to turn you out! O Mary, don't you weep!

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*The Hymn of Discipleship

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

DIADEMATA

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
 3. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 4. Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark! how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own;
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied;
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

a - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 his glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high,
 no an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

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

"Carillon"
Sue Crocker, organ

Louis Vierne

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Sympathy to **Tara Elliott** and son Jack on the March 27 death of her husband and his father, **Jeff Elliott**.

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Burke and Pauline Koonce, Calvin and Mary Grady Koonce, and Marvin and Ann Koonce by Vic and Mary Grady Bell and Battle and Kathryn Koonce.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. As of April 1, we have received \$17,685.

Calendar Highlights • April 4–10, 2021

Sunday, April 4

Easter

- 10:30 Outdoor Worship Service (Fred Fletcher Park Amphitheater)
- 11:00 Virtual Worship Service (YouTube)
- 11:30 Outdoor Worship Service (Fred Fletcher Park Amphitheater)
- 12:30 Outdoor Worship Service (Fred Fletcher Park Amphitheater)

Monday, April 5

- 8:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 6

- 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 7

- 5:30 1st–5th Grade Girls Music & Missions (Wade yard)
- 7:00 Youth Movie Night (Netflix Teleparty)

Thursday, April 8

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)



Easter Gifts

IN HONOR OF:

Bonnie Baker, by the Kelly/Nichols family

Bonnie Baker, by Linda Sears

Colleen and Bob Bradley, by their granddaughters, Caroline and Savannah Bradley

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

Sue and Stan Crocker, by Marie Dillard Andrews

Carolyn Crutchfield and family, by the Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew, Nathan and Mary,
Laura, Cody, and Adalee Joy

Asher and Ryder Helms, by Sterling and Myra Brickell

Joan Hobson, by her granddaughter Lauren Bradley

Joan Hobson, by Shirley and John Hobson

Shirley and John Hobson, by their granddaughters, Caroline and Savannah Bradley

Amy, Jonathan, and Grayson Leach, by Anne and Michael Cooke

Sonia Moore, by Greg and Marchelle Flowers

Dr. Mary Alice Seals, by Marie Dillard Andrews

Catherine and Elizabeth Yelverton, by Wyatt Yelverton

Hollis Yelverton, by Wyatt Yelverton

IN MEMORY OF:

Maurice Baker, by Linda Sears

Granny Betty, by the Bacons

Jerry Blanchard, Sr. (Daddy and Granddaddy), by the Blanchards

Their parents, by Sterling and Myra Brickell

Blayne Brown, by Jessica and Chase Helms

Caralie Brown, by Nancye Gaj

Phil and Louise B. Brown, by the Stahmer family

Jim Clary and their parents and grandparents, by Margaret Clary and Greg and Mark Clary and families

Dr. Graham Crutchfield, by Carolyn Crutchfield

Dr. Graham Crutchfield, by the Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew, Nathan and Mary, Laura, Cody, and Adalee Joy

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

Jean Finch, by Debbie Finch Mikeal and family

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

Penny, Jimmy, and Jim Frisbie, by Peggy Frisbie

Steve Gaj, by Nancye Gaj

Polly Wilkins Garrard, by her granddaughter, Lauren Bradley

Pauline Wilkins Garrard, Sam Garrard, and John Wilkins, by Shirley and John Hobson

Bennie Ray and Mary Denton Gupton, by Paula Page

Evelyn and Douglas Hager, by the Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew, Nathan and Mary, Laura, Cody, and Adalee Joy

Rev. Joy Crutchfield Hager, by the Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew, Nathan and Mary, Laura, Cody, and Adalee Joy

Anna Helms, by Jessica and Chase Helms

Anna Helms, by Sterling and Myra Brickell

Edward Hobson, by Shirley and John Hobson

Carey J. Hunter, by his wife and children

Ernie and Mary Frances Johnson, by Emily Johnson

Patsy Wooten Kelly, by the Kelly/Nichols family

Her mother, Helen E. Lever, by Lynda Camarra

Uncle Bob Lewis, by Tom, Maria, Katie, Ann, and Caroline Childrey

Dr. John M. Lewis, Pastor Emeritus, by Marie Dillard Andrews

Scott Lingafelt, by Jessica and Chase Helms

Papa Lloyd, by the Bacons

Dick Moore, by Greg and Marchelle Flowers

Patricia Motz-Frazier, by Courtney Selna

Joe Overman (Daddy and Papa), by the Blanchards

Robert Page, by Paula Page

Durwood Pegram, by Jessica and Chase Helms

Howard Shell, by Frances Shell and family

Elmore Snead, by Brenda Snead

Bill and Pat Stahmer, by the Stahmer family

Robert Thomas, by Courtney Selna

Harold Yelverton, by Jessica and Chase Helms

Harold Yelverton, by Wyatt Yelverton

