



## Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

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### Reflection

Easter has burst into our world, the world of space, time and matter, the world of real history and real people and real life, but our minds and imaginations are too small to contain it, so we do our best to put the sea into a bottle and fit the explosive fact of the resurrection into the possibilities we already know about.

N.T. Wright, *The Uncomfortable Truth of Easter*

### Welcome

Welcome to this service of worship. We invite you to slow down, quiet your heart, and to listen to the prelude as it directs your thoughts to God.

### Prelude: His Heart Beats by Andrew Peterson

### Call to Worship — 1 Peter 1:3; 2:9

Minister: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

*All: He has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.*

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All creation, join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

*Refrain:*

He is not dead, He is alive!

We have this hope in Jesus Christ!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

*Refrain:*

He is not dead, He is alive!  
We have this hope in Jesus Christ!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia! Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., Tune: John Walsh, 1708, alt. John Arnold, 1749, Refrain: Kurtis Parks*

## Prayer of Adoration

### The Lord's Prayer

*All: 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 and ever. Amen.*

## Christ is Risen

Let no one caught in sin remain inside the lie of inward shame;  
But fix our eyes upon the cross, and run to Him who showed great love;  
And bled for us, freely You've bled for us.

*Chorus*

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death;  
Come awake come awake, come and rise up from the grave.  
Christ is risen from the dead, we are one with Him again;  
Come awake come awake, come and rise up from the grave.

Beneath the weight of all our sin, you bowed to none but heaven's will;  
No scheme of hell no scoffer's crown, no burden great can hold You down.  
In strength You reign, forever let Your church proclaim: *(Chorus)*

O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your victory?  
O church, come stand in the light; the glory of God has defeated the night!  
Singing O death, where is your sting? O hell where is your victory?  
O church, come stand in the light; our God is not dead; He's alive, He's alive! *(Chorus)*

*Words and Music: Matt Maher and Mia Fieldes*

## Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

Minister: Church, what do you believe?

*All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us; how high the mountain I could not climb;  
In desperation I turned to heaven, and spoke Your name into the night.  
Then, through the darkness, Your loving-kindness, tore through the shadows of my soul.  
The work is finished, the end is written: Jesus Christ my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory, to wear my sin and bear my shame.  
The cross has spoken: I am forgiven; the King of kings calls me His own.  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever; Jesus Christ my living hope.

### *Chorus*

Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me.  
You have broken every chain; There's salvation in Your name:  
Jesus Christ my living hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise; Your buried body began to breathe.  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion, declared the grave has no claim on me. *(Repeat)*  
Jesus, Yours is the victory! *(Chorus)*

*Music and Lyrics: Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham*

## Shepherding Prayer

### Children's Recessional

#### Scripture Reading – Mark 8:31, 9:30-32, 10:32-34

Mark 8:31 <sup>31</sup> And Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mark 9:30-32 <sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus did not want anyone to know, <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

Mark 10:32-34 <sup>32</sup> And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, <sup>33</sup> saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. <sup>34</sup> And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

#### Sermon – Jesus' Anticipation

##### Figure A.

Other religions are based on their teachings. Christianity is based on the death of Christ and the Resurrection that attests its efficacy. . . This is significant because Christianity is the only religion that stands or falls on the truthfulness of an event.

Ajith Fernando, *The Supremacy of Christ* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1995) p. 253

##### Outline:

1. The peculiarity of the resurrection
2. The historicity of the resurrection
3. The consequences of the resurrection

##### Figure B.

Achilles held out his arms to clasp the spirit of Patroclus, but in vain. It vanished like a wisp of smoke and went gibbering under underground.

Homer, *Iliad* 23.99-107 (tr. Rieu)

Figure C.

Three times I [Odysseus] sprang towards her [Anticleia], and my will said, 'Clasp her,' and three times she flitted from my arms like a shadow or a dream."

Homer, *The Odyssey*, 11.206-08

Figure D.

The immediate conclusion is clear. Christianity was born into a world where its central claim was known to be false.

N. T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003) page 35

Figure E.

Psalm 16:10-11 <sup>10</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. <sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Figure F.

Daniel 12:1-2 <sup>1</sup> But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Figure G.

In first-century Judaism, nobody imagined that any individuals had already been raised, or would be raised in advance of the great last day. There are no traditions about prophets being raised to new bodily life; the closest we come to that is Elijah, who had gone bodily to heaven and would return to herald the new age. There are no traditions about a Messiah being raised to life: most Jews of this period hoped for resurrection, many Jews of this period hoped for a messiah, but nobody put those two hopes together until the early Christians did so. It may be obvious, but it needs saying: however exalted Abraham, Isaac and Jacob may have been in Jewish thought, nobody imagined they had been raised from the dead. However important Moses, David, and Elijah and the prophets may have been, nobody claimed that they were alive again in the 'resurrection' sense.

N. T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003) page 205

Figure H.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

Figure I.

“Perhaps the transformation of the disciples of Jesus is the greatest evidence of all for the resurrection . . . . The death of their Master left them despondent, disillusioned and near to despair. But in Acts they emerge as those who risk their lives for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and who turn the world upside down.”

John W. Stott, *Basic Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2008), p. 70

Figure J.

“As long as you do not begin with an imposed philosophical bias against the possibility of miracles, the Resurrection has as much attestation as any other ancient historical event.”

Tim Keller

Figure K.

John 6:40 “Everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Figure L.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

Figure M.

For if on earth the Savior healed the sicknesses of the flesh, and made the body whole, much more will He do this in the resurrection, so that the flesh shall rise perfect and entire.

Justin Martyr (AD c. 100-165), Greek Philosopher and Apologist

Figure N.

Since the decisive event of history has already taken place in the ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, all subsequent history is a kind of epilogue, an interval inserted by God's mercy in order to allow men time for repentance, and, as such an epilogue, necessarily in a real sense short, even though it may take a very long time.

C.E.B Cranfield, *Luke-Acts*, SJT, 1963, p. 300

Figure O.

John 10:11, 18 <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. .... <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.

## The Lord's Table

### Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed

How can it be? The One who died has borne our sin through sacrifice,  
To conquer every sting of death; Sing, sing hallelujah!

For joy awakes, as dawning light, when Christ's disciples lift their eyes;  
Alive, He stands, their Friend and King; Christ, Christ, He is risen!

#### *Chorus*

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh sing hallelujah!

Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed; Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Where doubt and darkness once had been, they saw Him and their hearts believed;  
But blessed are those who have not seen, yet sing hallelujah.

Once bound by fear, now bold in faith, they preached the truth and power of grace;  
And pouring out their lives they gained life, life everlasting. (*Chorus*)

The power that raised Him from the grave now works in us to powerfully save;  
He frees our hearts to live His grace; Go tell of His goodness. (*Chorus*)

He's alive! He's alive! Heaven's gates are opened wide!  
He's alive! He's alive! Now in heaven glorified!

*Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Ed Cash*

## Benediction

## Announcements

- There will be an Easter Egg Hunt after the worship service today .
- There will be no youth group today. We'll resume youth group at the Roberts' home on 4/7.
- Shady Grove Presbyterian Church recently hosted author, Julie Lowe, for a seminar on her newly released book, *Safeguards: Shielding our homes and equipping our kids*. "After more than two decades as a family counselor, Julie Lowe has seen how important it is to help parents and caregivers think wisely and biblically about the dangers children face. Instead of living in fear or denial, parents and caregivers can equip children to assess people and situations and model for them how to live by faith in a world where evil exists." The Evangelical Council for Abuse Prevention is hosting a **free** webinar on April 4th 8-9:30pm for further discussion. The webinar registration can be accessed at: <https://ecap.net/event/safeguards-for-kids-tour-webinar/>
- Community Groups schedule:
  - Clarksburg/Gaithersburg – April 7 (Routenberg Home); April 21 (Hillah Home)
  - Gaithersburg/Olney – April 5 and 19: Location TBD
  - Germantown – April 10: Hein's Home
- Spring BBQ, Saturday, April 27, 12-3pm, Hein's home
- Please consider serving as an usher or set-up team member in April
- UpCounty HUB Service Project, Tuesday, May 14, 1-4pm. This is the day of the Maryland primary election. MCPS is closed. Students are encouraged to invite friends and gain SSL hours.

## Greeting One Another