

EASTER SUNDAY ~ THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
VIRTUAL WORSHIP ~ APRIL 12, 2020

Call to Worship ~ Reverend Becky Albright and Dr. Patrick Perryman

The Day of Resurrection ~ Henry Thomas Smart ~ played by Lily Cooper

Children's Sermon ~ How the Virus Stole Easter!

Written by Kristi Bothur, presented by Dr. Perryman

Low In the Grave He Lay ~ Robert Lowry ~ arranged and presented by Vic Varner

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose;
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

Gospel Lesson ~ Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon ~ Great Fear and Great Joy ~ Dr. Perryman

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer ~ Rev. Albright

Thine is the Glory ~ George Frideric Handel ~ played by Lily Cooper

Litany for Easter

Holy God, it is in the early morning, when things are fresh and new, you made life in all of its beauty and gave birth to all that we know.

Hallowed be your name. Alleluia!

It is in the early morning, when the world least expected it, a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you were one of us.

Hallowed be your name. Alleluia!

It is in the early morning, surrounded by religious leaders, anxious statesmen, and silent friends, you accepted the penalty for doing good, for being God: you shouldered the cross and were crucified.

Hallowed be your name. Alleluia!

It is in the early morning, a voice in a guarded graveyard, and an empty tomb proved that you had risen, that you had come back to those and for those who had forgotten, denied, and destroyed you.

Hallowed be your name. Alleluia!

It is in the early morning of this day, in the company of your church on earth and in heaven, we celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, your love for us, your interest in us; so we pray:

Lord, bring to us newness of life. Make us new where we are worn and tired. Make our love new where we have turned hard-hearted. Make us new in forgiveness, where we feel hurt and where we have wounded. Make us new in the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit, where we have become prisoners of ourselves.

(a brief moment of silence)

To all who are listening and willing to hear: Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Christ has granted us the right to begin life anew.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia and Amen.

Our Flowering Cross ~ created by Geneva Baxley ~ piano accompaniment: Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks ~ written by Donald Fishel and played by Lily Cooper

Benediction

Hallelujah Chorus ~ George Frederic Handel ~ presented by the Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Friends,

As you may imagine, these Holy Week and Easter worship experiences are a labor of intense love and a true team effort. I cannot express my appreciation enough to everyone who has contributed. I am most grateful to my wife **Sissy**, who has learned to create and produce video projects as well as helping to direct and then upload for viewing. This week, **Tony Pierro**, a member of our church and professional photographer/videographer, volunteered to film Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, which was a tremendous gift. **Geneva Baxley**, also a professional photographer/videographer and member of our church, created our 'Palm Sunday Parade' and 'Our Flowering Cross' videos. **Mary Ragsdale, Pat Ross, and Bev VanGysel** coordinated our Palms and Lilies and have decorated the door of our Sanctuary as well as the Cross. Thank you to **Bob Gamble** for sponsoring flowers as well.

Betty and Bert Owen contributed lovely clarinet music for Maundy Thursday. Our organist **Lily Cooper** has played and recorded multiple pieces of music nearly every day. She and Sam reached out to their former Church **FPC Nashville**, to borrow the Hallelujah Chorus—thank you to Dr. Raphael Bundage for sharing this music. **Vic Varner**, Director of Music, has selected, arranged and presented moving musical offerings and relied heavily upon **Alice Moss** to record and send them. **Leanne Jones**, our Family Ministries Coordinator, shared the work of **Kristi Bothur** that I edited and added to for our Easter Children's sermon. (Please see the link below to credit and thank Kristi.) I am continually grateful to **Rev. Becky Albright** for her prayers, love, encouragement, and support in all areas of our work together at First Pres. Finally, a great thank you to **Nora Graczyk** for administrative and communications guidance at all hours with joy and a can-do spirit.

This has been the Holy Week from heaven! I miss seeing all of you so much it hurts, but I am amazed at the ways that the Holy Spirit is providing the wind for our sails.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Peace & love,
Dr. Patrick Perryman

<https://www.thissideofheavenblog.com/blog/how-the-virus-stole-easter>