

J. J. WHITE MEMORIAL RESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

McComb, Mississippi

April 4, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Easter: The Resurrection of our Lord

**Congregation please stand if able*

A Thought Before Worship

Today is a day when God will open our eyes and soften our hearts so that we may hear the Word and receive new life. Thanks be to God!

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Christ, the Lord, is Risen Today!”

Cox

***Call to Worship**

We live in a world of such turmoil, such confusion. We can't help but wonder what we can be sure of.

We are sure of this: The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed!

Because Jesus is risen from the dead, walls fall, darkness is chased away by light, and even death is revealed for what it is: powerless to hold us or control us!

In the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we find brand-new life and a glorious future.

Then come into his risen presence with praise and thanksgiving, with laughter and joy. Give thanks to God and praise his name for the Lord is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let us worship God!

***A Prayer for the Day**

Lord of life, power, grace, and wonder, through the mighty Resurrection of your Son, Jesus, you have overcome death once and for all and opened the way for us to everlasting life. Grant that we, now dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may live in him until we live together with you in glory where he reigns with you and with the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

A Reading from the Epistles:

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now 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, through 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. For 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, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But 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. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

A Prayer of Assurance for Easter Day

Gracious and loving God, in raising Jesus from the dead, you conquered death and its power to bind and control us. Help us never to forget and make us always thankful for your loving presence with us. Help us always to remember that you are with us in every time of perplexity and confusion to guide and to direct us. That you are with us in every time of sorrow to comfort and console us. That you are with us in every temptation to strengthen and empower us. That you are with us in every time of loneliness to cheer and befriend us. That you are with us even in death to guide us to the glory you have prepared for us in the life to come. Help us always to remember and to be thankful. Through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

A Piano Interlude “Because He Lives”

Tornquist

A Prayer for God’s Guidance as We Hear God’s Word

A Reading from the Gospels: Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb? When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is

going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Sermon

"Is That It?"

Rev. Bob Phelps

***An Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

We belong to Jesus Christ, whom God raised from the dead! All things are his. He is the Risen Lord of all. Let us give as he has given for us.

Offertory

"Let the Whole Creation Cry Alleluia!"

Rodriguez

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

Prayers of the People --- Our Lord's Prayer

We offer our prayers through Jesus Christ, who is risen from the dead, who lives and reigns forever, and who prays for us in heaven at God's right hand.

Gracious God, through the Risen Christ, we pray for the Church. Let us be a people of joy, living witnesses to the power of Resurrection and the Good News of your grace and peace.

Living God, **hear our prayer and make us whole.**

Through the Risen Christ, we pray for the earth, our home. From the dust of the damaged earth, O God, raise us your new creation, full of beauty, wonder, and glory.

Living God, **hear our prayer and make us whole.**

Through the Risen Christ, we pray for all the nations of the earth. Let the message of your saving power spread through all the world. Let all the world's people know that death no longer has dominion over us.

Living God, **hear our prayer and make us whole.**

Through the Risen Christ, we pray for this community where we live and work. Let the doors of this Church always be open wide to welcome all you call to find a home here and to send us out in love and service.

Living God, **hear our prayer and make us whole.**

Through the Risen Christ we pray for those we know to be in need. We pray for Will and his family as he continues to experience illness, for Emily and Ralph as they adjust to new homes, to Bill as he struggles with his health, for Phyllis and her health, for Gloria as she recovers, and for Scott as he heals, for Nancy and her health, for the people of St. Al's Church as they mourn the death of their pastor and leader. Give hope to these and to all who wish to hear Good News. Turn mourning into dancing and sorrow into joy.

Living God, **hear our prayer and make us whole.**

God of all power and glory, receive these our prayers and continue your mighty work among us, through Jesus Christ, our Risen and Living Lord, who taught us all to pray when he said:

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. Amen.

***Charge A Reading from the New Testament: Acts 10:34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believed in him received forgiveness of sins through his name.

***Benediction**

Now may the truth of the empty tomb—the astonishing reality of Jesus' Resurrection—keep you fearless and sure that you will see the Resurrected One again and again in this life. And live with him and all the faithful in the life to come. May the power of God's endless love surround you and guide you, this day and always.

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.

***Postlude "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done" Shackley**

Some News About Our Community

Last Week's Record, Sunday, March 28, 2021

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|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Worship Attendance: | 38; 52 views of Facebook Live |
| Offering: | \$7,314.00 |

We are happy to welcome all who worship with us today, especially those who visit. Please join us again soon. We also welcome those who worship with us on Facebook Live and those who worship with us in print. As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus today, we are thankful to reach people in a variety of ways.

Sunday School Resumes Next Week

The past year has been tumultuous for all the programs of the Church. We are happy that we feel safe enough to resume regular Sunday School classes next Sunday, April 11. We offer classes for all ages from children through adults. We hope you will join us Sunday School groups beginning at 9:30 am. Worship, of course, will follow in the sanctuary at 10:30 am.

Communion Next Sunday

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion in worship next Sunday, April 11. All are welcome at God's Table here.

Session Meets Next Sunday

Next Sunday, April 11, is also the date for the regular monthly meeting of the Session. We will meet in the Ewell Martin Room immediately after worship. Please keep these who oversee the ministry of our congregation in your prayers.

Thursday Morning Bible Study to Resume Soon Watch for news about resumption of Thursday morning Bible study soon. Bob will be in touch with group members about a proposed new study. Newcomers are welcome. We'll be announcing plans soon.

