

# Easter

April 4, 2021 at 10:30 AM

*We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.  
As you join us today, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.  
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your hearts and minds toward God.*

## We prepare for worship

*Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...*

*He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.*

*Matthew 28:6 (ESV)*

Prelude

*My Tribute (To God Be The Glory)*

Crouch

Dr. Kenneth M. Dean, Jr., organist

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

Pastor Ceselsky

## We praise our great God

Call to Worship (**responsive**)

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

I am He that lives, and was dead, says the Lord; and behold, I am alive forevermore.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Hymn No. 277

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

Lyra Davidica

“Christ the Lords is ris’n today,” Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say; Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia! Sing ye heav’ns, and earth, reply. Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia! Christ has burst the gates of hell: Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids his rise; Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia! Where, O death is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has lead, Alleluia! Foll’wing our exalted Head; Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heav’n! Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be giv’n; Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now; Alleluia! Hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

Invocation

## We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (**responsive**)

Psalms 30 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**

<sup>3</sup> O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

<sup>4</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.**

<sup>5</sup> For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

**Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”

<sup>7</sup> **By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.**

<sup>8</sup> To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

<sup>9</sup> **“What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?**

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

<sup>10</sup> **Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”**

<sup>11</sup> You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, <sup>12</sup> that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

**O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

Confession of Assurance and Faith (**unison**)

Westminster Larger Catechism, Q. 52 (ed.)

How was Christ exalted in His resurrection? **Christ was exalted in His resurrection, in that, not having seen corruption in death . . . He rose again from the dead the third day by His own power; whereby He declared Himself to be the Son of God, to have satisfied divine justice, to have vanquished death, and him that had the power of it, and to be Lord of [both the] quick and dead: all which He did as a public person, the head of His Church, for [our] justification, quickening in grace, support against enemies, and to assure [us] of [our] resurrection from the dead at the last day.**

Hymn No. 266

*Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

St. Kevin

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke Jacob’s sons and daughters;  
Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

‘Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,  
And from three days’ sleep in death, as a sun hath risen;  
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying  
From his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,  
With the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;  
Comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection  
Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus’ resurrection.

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb’s dark portal,  
Nor the watchers, nor the seal hold thee as a mortal:  
But today amidst thine own thou didst stand, bestowing  
Thine own peace, which evermore, passeth human knowing.

The Prayers of God’s People and the Lord’s Prayer (**in unison**)

## We respond in gratitude for God’s blessing

*The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731)* and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*Because He Lives*

Wm Gaither

## We hear God speak

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18 (ESV)

**20** Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So 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.” <sup>3</sup> So

Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples went back to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup>And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They 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." <sup>14</sup>Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for 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.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

Sermon "Funeral Ritual or Family Reunion?" Pastor Bell

**We respond to God's grace**

Hymn No. 280 *Christ Is Risen from the Dead* Warren

Christ is risen from the dead, glorious day we celebrate;  
Death has no pow'r over him, Hallelujah, he is risen!

As in Adam all men die, so all those in Christ shall live;  
He has conquer'd death and hell. Hallelujah, he is risen!

No more need we fear the grave, now, O death, where is your sting?  
God gives us the victory. Hallelujah, he is risen!

Christ is risen from the dead, glorious day we celebrate;  
Now we live through faith in him, Hallelujah, he is risen!

Benediction and Three-Fold Amen (**Hymnal, pg 740**) Danish

Postlude *Fanfare on the Tune - Diadem* arr. K. Dean

**We welcome Dr. Kenneth M. Dean, Jr.** as our organist today. Dr. Dean is the Minister of Music at the City Temple of Baltimore Baptist Church on Dolphin Street. City Temple is still unable to have in-person worship services so he has graciously agreed to play for us in Wendy's absence.

**We will not be celebrating the Lord's Supper** today as we would normally do on the first Sunday of the month. Instead, we have moved our observance to next Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Our special Easter Offering** will go to the PCA Mission to the World Compassion Ministries. Your gift enables our denomination to respond quickly to urgent needs around the world: providing food and shelter for displaced victims of natural disasters, rebuilding homes and churches, and demonstrating the love of Jesus to a world in desperate need of his mercy and grace.

**A Congregational Work Day** is planned for Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Mark your calendar and join us!

**The congregation is invited** to a luncheon following the worship service on April 25. We will be celebrating the baptism of covenant child Daniella Andrade that day. YOU MUST RSVP for this luncheon. Please text or call Angela at 240-274-0914.

*He is Risen!*



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