

EASTER SUNDAY

# SUNRISE SERVICE

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MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2014



## **We are so glad that you have joined us for our Easter Sunrise Service! Today we remember and celebrate that Jesus Christ conquered death by His physical resurrection from the grave.**

Belief in the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ is slipping among those who claim to be Christians in America. Therefore, why do we believe that the resurrection of Jesus really happened in history? There are basically four reasons.

- **The Prophetic Scriptures:** The historical event of Jesus' resurrection occurred to fulfill the promises of the Old Testament Scriptures. A Jewish man who knew the Old Testament well and who initially hated Jesus and persecuted Christians wrote: Jesus "was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:4). Some of these Scriptures would include Psalm 16:10 and Isaiah 53:10.
- **The Empty Tomb:** We can identify the tombs of the founders of other religions. However, the angel's wonderful words to the women at Jesus' tomb have reverberated down through the centuries: "He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead" (Matthew 28:6-7a).
- **The Eyewitnesses:** The historical event of Jesus' resurrection is validated by many eyewitnesses. We know that over 500 people saw Jesus in His resurrected body. Many of these people originally were hostile to Christ and to faith. In fact, James, one of the half-brothers of Jesus, thought Jesus was insane.
- **Transformed Lives:** The last reason we believe in the resurrection is the transformed lives of Christ's followers through the centuries. Violent persecutors like Saul became fervent preachers of the Gospel. Those who were naturally cowards became bold as lions as they willingly died a martyr's death for Christ.

### **What difference should the resurrection of Jesus Christ make in our lives?**

First of all, the resurrection of Jesus revolutionizes how we view death. Most people deny their own mortality. In fact, Sigmund Freud said, "death is a "painful riddle... for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be." For those who trust in Jesus, death is no longer final and fatal. II Corinthians 4:14 says, "knowing that he (God) who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence."

Secondly, the resurrection of Jesus Christ revolutionizes our reason for living. We no longer fear a life of futility. We no longer live strictly for ourselves. We live for Him who died and rose again on our behalf (II Corinthians 5:15).

Leo Tolstoy, the Russian novelist, had a question that almost brought him to the brink of suicide. He asked, "What will come of what I do today or tomorrow? What will come of my entire life? Is there any meaning in my life that will not be annihilated by the inevitability of death which awaits me?" The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that there is a purpose for your life that death cannot destroy. Through simply receiving Jesus Christ as Your crucified and resurrected Savior, you will enjoy a life-giving relationship with the God who made you and who was willing to pay an incredible price to rescue you from peril and to bring you into His presence to live forever and ever. This is why we celebrate Easter!

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**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

BAGPIPE PRELUDE ..... Don Plunk

SOLO INTROIT: "Were You There?" ..... Traditional Spiritual

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
  
Were you there when He rose up from the grave?  
Were you there when He rose up from the grave?  
Oh, sometimes I feel like shouting, "Glory! Glory! Glory!"  
Were you there when He rose up from the grave?

*Terri Theil, soloist*

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP ..... D. Todd Erickson

This is the good news – the grave is empty; Christ is risen.

**Hallelujah!**

This is the good news – once we were no people; now we are God's people.

**Hallelujah!**

Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

**Hallelujah!**

♣ "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" ..... Charles Wesley



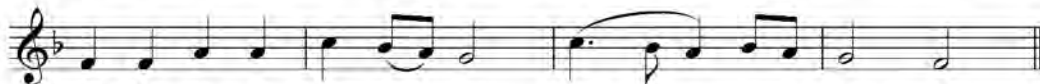
1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - umphant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

♣ RESURRECTION LITANY

We glory in Your cross, O Lord,  
 and praise and glorify Your Holy Name;  
 for by virtue of Your resurrection, joy has come to the whole world.

**May God be merciful to us and bless us,  
 show us the light of His countenance, and come to us.**

Let Your ways be known upon the earth,  
 Your saving health among the nations.

**Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
 let all the peoples praise You.**

**We glory in Your cross, O Lord,  
 and praise and glorify Your Holy Name;  
 for by virtue of Your resurrection,  
 joy has come to the whole world.**

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

✦ EASTER GREETINGS

CHORAL REFLECTION: "Alleluia" . . . . . Michael Praetorius

*Memphis Children's Choir  
Terri Theil and Justin Pepper, Co-directors*

HYMN OF RESURRECTION: "See What a Morning" . . . . . Keith Getty, Stuart Townend



1. See what a morn - ing, glo - rious-ly bright, with the dawn - ing of hope in Je -  
2. See Ma - ry weep - ing, "Where is He laid?" As in sor - row she turns from the  
3. One with the Fa - ther, An - cient of Days, through the Spi - rit Who clothes faith with



ru - sa - lem; Fold - ed the grave - clothes, tomb filled with light, as the  
emp - ty tomb. Hears a voice speak - ing, call - ing her name; It's the  
cer - tain - ty, Hon - or and bless - ing, glo - ry and praise to the



an - gels an - nounce "Christ is ris - en!" See God's sal -  
Mas - ter, the Lord, raised to life a - gain! The voice that  
King crowned with Pow'r and Au - thor - i - ty. And we are



va - tion plan, wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sac - ri - fice,  
spans the years, speak - ing life, stir - ring hope, bring - ing peace to us,  
raised with Him; Death is dead, love has won, Christ has con - quered.



ful - filled in Christ the Man, for He lives: Christ is ris - en from the  
will sound 'til He ap - pears, for He lives: Christ is ris - en from the  
And we shall reign with Him, for He lives: Christ is ris - en from the



dead.  
dead.  
dead.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

♦HYMN OF TRIUMPH: "In Christ Alone" ..... Keith Getty, Stuart Townend



1. In Christ a - lone, my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my  
2. In Christ a - lone, Who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less  
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness  
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in



song; This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the  
Babe; This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the  
slain; Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the  
me; From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com -



fier - cest drought and storm; What heights of love, what depths of  
ones He came to save; 'Til on that cross, as Je - sus  
grave He rose a - gain; And as He stands in vic - to -  
mands my des - ti - ny; No pow'r of hell, no scheme of



peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease; My Com - fort -  
died, the wrath of God was sat - is - fied, for ev - 'ry  
ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; For I am  
man can ev - er pluck me from His hand; 'Til He re -



er, my All in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.  
sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I stand.  
His and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

✦BENEDICTION

✦BAGPIPE POSTLUDE

✦Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778

### Second Presbyterian Church

The Memphis Sunrise Service and reception to follow are hosted by Second Presbyterian Church. To find out more about who we are and how you can become part of our church community, contact Todd Erickson at (901) 531-8895 or [todd.erickson@2pc.org](mailto:todd.erickson@2pc.org).

We invite you to worship with us on campus later this morning during one of our Easter services at 8:00, 9:30, or 11:00 a.m. There, our Chamber Orchestra and Chancel Choir will present music from Handel's *Messiah*.

We also welcome you to worship with us weekly on Sundays in the morning at 8:15 or 11:00 and in the evening at 6:00 p.m. Nursery is available for ages four and under during all services.

Please save the dates for these upcoming events:

- Vacation Bible School: June 2-6 from 9:00-11:45 a.m.
- Patriotic Pops at the Levitt Shell: July 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Find out more about these and other events at [2pc.org](http://2pc.org).



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[www.2pc.org](http://www.2pc.org) · (901) 454-0034

**OUR MISSION:**

To glorify God through joyful worship, to show God's love to all people,  
to lead them to faith in Jesus Christ, to make them His disciples,  
and to call them to His service.