

Easter Sunday
April 17, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call to Worship "Lift High the Lord" Choir

Opening Litany

L: Run from fear and darkness! Hope is on the move!

P: Run to tell the world, Christ is risen!

L: Do not be afraid. Jesus has conquered death!

P: We can proclaim with great confidence that God's love rules.

L: Christ is risen!

P: CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

ALL: AMEN

*Hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" 302

Prayer of Preparation

Psalter Psalm 118:14-29 839

*Hymn "He Has Made Me Glad" TFWS 2270

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Page 167 (N.T.)

*Hymn "Sing with All the Saints in Glory" 702

New Testament Reading Acts 10:34-43 Pages 123-124 (N.T.)

Anthem "Risen to Save" Choir
Soloists: Mary Louise Robinson, Jo Ann Heiting, Dan Greshel

Gospel Reading Luke 24:1-12 Page 87 (N.T.)

Sermon God Will Not Be Silenced (Part 2) John D. Jordan

*Affirmation of Faith "Apostles' Creed" 881

*Gloria Patri "Glory Be to the Father" 70

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey

*Doxology "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

*Hymn "Easter People, Raise Your Voices" 304

*Benediction

*Benediction Response "Lift High the Lord" Choir

*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: John D. Jordan

Time Together: Linda Maloch

Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey

AV Director: Marie Stiles

Church Musician

AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

VISITORS ARE WELCOME in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor's tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers. An **INFANT AND TODDLER NURSERY** is provided during the worship hour. Parents: please ask an usher for assistance.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

TODAY'S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God in **celebration of Easter** and in loving memory of **Carolyn Hardee** by **her family**.

**“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS
MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...**

Marty Johnson	Jackie McNeill	Charles McNeill	Becky Derrick	Charlie Hooker	Patsy Zeigler
Jimmy Grahl	Oren Edwards	Latson Lewis	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler	George Taylor
Kay Jordan	John Ballentine	Boots Morgan	Dale Wells		

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Nell Cooke; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Irvin Wells

Family and Friends: **Howard Stephens** (*friend of Sue Ballentine*); **James Boggs** (*father of Claire Boggs*); **Stacy Coggins** (*daughter of Steve Aiello*); **Dan & Leslie White** (*brother & sister-in-law of Steve White*); **Jorge Dominguez** (*husband of friend of Marty Johnson*); **Alva Humphries** (*friend of Marty Johnson*); **Mary Ann Rentz** (*stepmother of Marty Johnson*); **Judy Bauer** (*cousin of Marty Johnson*); **Neal Hart** (*uncle of Dee Senn*); **Bill Areheart** (*friend of Bonnie Ramsey*); **Jane & Bob Bryant** (*sister and brother-in-law of Patsy Zeigler*); **Max Nova** (*son of friend of Edwa Meek*); **Addie Kinard** (*cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek*); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (*son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd*); **Cindy Ellenberg** (*friend of Ray Frady*); **Megan Corby** (*daughter of Carlis Edwards*); **Chip Hooker** (*Wayne Hooker's father*); **Robert Bradley** (*Business Associate of Simon Ross*); **Dino & Wanda Moore** (*friend of Tommy Gleaton*); **Gary Becton** (*friend of Mark Branham*); **Wade Albert Payne** (*friend of Mary Louise Robinson*); **Monnie Tiller** (*friend of Chris Derrick*); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (*stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey*); **Alexa Lookingbill** (*wife of coworker of Kathy White*); **Katelyn Rose** (*daughter of co-worker of Kathy White*); **Vickie Edwards** (*neighbor of Kathy White*); **Beverly Jordan** (*sister-in-law of John Jordan*); **Renea Eshleman, Ty Moore, George Dorn** (*friends of Kay Jordan*); **Teddy Derrick** (*uncle of Arvan Derrick*); **Haidee Baehr** (*friends of Ruth Frady*); **Dianne Schmotzer** (*sister-in-law of Gale Frady*); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (*cousins of Gale Frady*); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (*friends of Gale Frady*); **Ray Culbreth's Group House**; **Nellie Gantt** (*mother of friend of Ray Culbreth*); **Amelia Zinski** (*great-niece of Linda Maloch*); **Wayne Blair** (*son of Dot Johnson*); **Xavier Crane** (*grandnephew of John Ballentine*); **Walt & Janet Beck** (*friends of Jo Ann Heiting*); **Earle Watson** (*father of friend of Jo Ann Heiting*); **Adam Lavender** (*son of Phil Lavender*)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com.

OUR PRESENCE ...

Attendance 04/10 Sunday School 10 Morning Worship: 37

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 04/10 \$ 2,783.39

OUR SERVICE.”

Church Calendar

4/18 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
Visitation for Carolyn Hardee, 6:30 – 8 p.m. @ Thompson FH

4/19 Service for Carolyn Hardee, 11 a.m.

4/20 GLIA Articles Due
Class Meeting, 7 p.m.

4/21 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

They did it. Pilate, Herod, the chief priests and scribes silenced God. They took this rabble-rouser, Jesus, and silenced him. They arrested this man from Galilee, of all places, who proclaimed a new kingdom. They gave him a mock trial. They had him beaten. Then they nailed him on a cross and watched him die. They returned to business as usual.

Pilate went back to asserting Roman authority in the region. He granted Joseph of Arimathea permission to take the dead body of Jesus. Get the body in a tomb as quickly as possible. Get it out of sight and out of mind. Pilate probably congratulated himself for taking care of this threat to Roman authority as quickly as possible with no real need to bother his superiors with this trifling matter.

Herod returned to his usual pursuits, living in the lap of luxury. He returned to his palace in Jerusalem or maybe went back to Galilee. He went back to getting rich off the backs of the people. Why concern himself with a “Messiah” who would not show him a sign of power, just another pretender.

The chief priests and scribes went back to religion as usual. The chief priests went back to taking the sacrifices of the people, making sure the sacrifices were appropriate. The scribes continued to teach people the real meaning of the law, their interpretation not that of some itinerate rabbi from Galilee. This threat to their religious order had been silenced.

Yes, they did it. Pilate, Herod, the chief priests and scribes silenced Jesus for good. They silenced God.

At times it feels like God has been silenced. We see so much evil in our world. We see the horrors of war and atrocities in Ukraine. According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been 132 mass shootings, defined as 4 victims killed or injured, in the US in 2022. An 83-year-old nun was kidnapped by terrorists, and we pray for her safety. Our world seems rife with conflict: political, religious, social, ethnic, and every other way. So much evil. Maybe God has been silenced.

So the women came to the tomb in silence. They came in the silence of the early dawn just as the first rays of sunlight appear in the eastern sky. Even the birds have not awakened and are silent. They came to complete the task they began Friday afternoon. They had prepared the ointments and spices to anoint the body of Jesus but were unable to finish because of the sabbath. They came to anoint the body of Jesus for proper burial, a task to be done in silence.

But as they approached the tomb they found the stone rolled away. When they went into the tomb instead of being hit with the stench of death, they saw the death cloths. There wasn't a body. They were perplexed, confused.

Suddenly there were two men in dazzling clothes standing beside them. They were terrified! I would be. The men ask, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but he has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Remember what he told you. Remember the words he said to you. Remember his voice.

The women remembered his words, as recorded in Luke. They may have begun whispering to each other. “Remember how he said God is God of the living and not the dead (20:38).” “One of the twelve told me he said these things before we got to Jericho (18:32).” They talk a little louder. “And he said he was going to be betrayed while we were in Galilee (9:44).” “I remember after Peter said he was the Messiah, he said he must undergo suffering, be killed, and be raised on the third day (9:22).” “That is what he meant when he talked about the sign of Jonah (11:30)!” With each remembrance, their voices got a little louder, rising in crescendo until they shouted, “Let’s go tell the eleven!”

They go back to where the apostles were and told them what they had experienced, what they had been told. The apostles, being men in a patriarchal society, did not believe them. It was just an idle tale by some silly women. The women persisted in telling their tale.

Finally, Peter slipped out of the house and ran to the tomb. He saw the death cloths and went home marveling at what he had seen.

I imagine Peter thinking, “It happened, just like Jesus said it would, he is not dead, he has been raised. He still lives!”

God was not silenced as Jesus hung on the cross. Jesus’s last words were not, “Father into your hands I commend my spirit” Jesus was raised from the dead and Jesus still speaks. God had not been silenced on Good Friday for God’s voice rang out to the Son, “Rise Up!” The death cloths were removed and Jesus left the tomb. Jesus then appeared and spoke to the disciples on the way to Emmaus. He appeared to Peter and the disciples. Jesus gave his words to the disciples to proclaim the gospel to all nations beginning from Jerusalem.

God was not silenced. The disciples told the story. They passed along Jesus’ teaching, Peter to the crowds on the day of Pentecost and the Roman Centurion, Cornelius. God even spoke to one that opposed Jesus, Paul, who then spread the Good News of Easter to the Corinthians and other gentiles.

God continued to speak through the other writers of the Bible: James, John, and those that wrote in the name of Peter and Paul. God continued to speak through the Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. God continued to speak through all those mentioned in the book of Acts and the Epistles. God continued to speak through the early Church Fathers. God continued to speak through the years through the leaders of the Church: Augustine, Anslem, Thomas à Kempis, Thomas Aquinas, and other medieval scholars. God continued to speak through the reformers: Luther, Calvin, and Wesley. God continued to speak through the great evangelists: Harry Emerson Fosdick, Oswald Chambers, and Billy Graham. Most of all, God spoke through ordinary Joes and Josephines, like us, who simply lived their lives in another way, the way of the Kingdom of God.

God has continued to speak for the past 2000 years. God has continued to speak even though some did not believe. God has continued to speak even though some persecuted the messengers. God has continued to speak. God could not be silenced even though he was hung on a cross to die.

What died on that cross was not God. What died on that cross was the power of sin over humanity. The evil powers that hung God on the cross were defeated. The barriers that separated humanity from God and each other were broken down. Death, being separated from God, was defeated and humanity was reconciled to God.

So we tell the Easter story. We tell of God who shouted out from the tomb even as the evil powers tried to silence him. We raise our voices and shout the Easter message, Christ has risen! Christ is defeating the evil powers of the world. Christ is saving us from the guilt and power of sin. Christ is healing the brokenness in the world. Christ is restoring us to God.

In the evilness of the world, God still speaks. God speaks through those who provide shelter and comfort for the refugees of war. God speaks through those who seek a solution to the violence in our communities. God speaks through those who work to bring peace and civil discourse. God speaks through all who live according to the divine kingdom.

God has not been silenced. God will not be silenced. Easter is God breaking through. God is speaking saying I am saving you. I am saving the world. Let us listen for God speaking to us. Let us proclaim the message God gives us through our words and, more importantly, the way we live daily. Let us as Easter people raise our voices, not just at Easter but every day. As William James wrote in his great Easter Hymn, "Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song." Every day is Easter so raise our voices and speak for God who will not be silenced.