

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey
(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Greeting, Announcements and Prayer

*Call to Worship

Roll away the stone of doubt.

The tomb is empty!

Easter's empty surprise,
brimmed full of meaning.

Christ is risen!

The tomb is empty.

It could not contain Him.

Christ is risen!

Hope is alive.

New life is possible.

Christ is risen! Sing alleluia!

Shout for joy.

Death is no more.

Christ is risen! Sing alleluia!

Christ is risen, indeed!

*Hymn of Praise "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (vs. 1-3) 302

*Opening Prayer

Lord of Life, submitting to death, you conquered the grave. By being lifted on a cross you draw all peoples to you. By being raised from the dead you restored to humanity all that we had lost through sin. Throughout these fifty days of Easter, we proclaim the marvelous mystery of death and resurrection. For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity. Amen.

*Responsive Reading "I Am the Resurrection and the Life" Insert

*Affirmation from Corinthians and Colossians 888

*Psalter Psalm 118:14-29 (Response 2) 839

Passing of the Peace: *Let us greet one another with love and peace.*

"Let the Children Come!" Patsy Boggs
(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children's Church.)

Special Music "They Could Not" Kathy Seppamaki

Scripture Lessons Acts 10:34-43 Pages 123-124 (N.T.)
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Page 167 (N.T.)

*Hymn "Lamb of God" TFWS 2113

Prayer of Confession 893

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Choir

*Doxology 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Gospel Lesson John 20:1-18 Pages 110-111(N.T.)

Easter Meditation Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

*Hymn "Now the Green Blade Riseth" 311

Celebration of the Great Thanksgiving for Easter Insert

*Closing Hymn "Christ Is Risen" 307

*Benediction

*Benediction Response "May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You" Choir & Congregation

*Please Stand As You Are Able

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: Rev. Darlene L. Kelley AV Director: Marie Stiles

Music Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

Time Together: Joyce Robinson; Slone Taylor

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.

Today's Lovely Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

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

Patsy Shuler Marilyn Lloyd Tom Lloyd Ruth Frady Libby Strickland Christopher McCroskey
Rhett Hook Diane Muszynski Cristen Hipp Latson Lewis English Pearcy Hannah Glanz
Kaye Floyd Ray Frady

Shut-Ins: Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Jean Raynor

Family and Friends: **Lynn Rhode** (*sister of Patsy Shuler*); **James Leonard** (*previous coworker of Mark Lewis*); **Kathleen Varnadore** (*Ted & Ruth Frady's neighbor*); **Paul Frenzel** (*friend of Chris Derrick*); **Sissy Henry** (*former member of Trinity*); **Sean & Tucker Smith** (*cousins of Darlene Kelley*); **Sonny Hardee** (*brother of Lynn Martin*); **Colby Martin** (*son of Donna Muszynski*); **Lynne Powell** (*friend of the Ballentines and Branhams*); **Ima Thibodeaux** (*friend of Christopher McCroskey*); **Keith Jordan** (*nephew of John & Kay Jordan*); **Ann Cullum** (*friend of Bob Strickland*); **Malcolm Skipper** (*grandfather of Matthew Skipper*); **Bryan Collard** (*brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis*); ; **Charlyn McNeill, Michael McNeill** (*sister & brother of Mary Sue Lewis*); **Missy Abrams** (*stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams*); **Mary Davis** (*daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland*); **Chuck Hardee** (*cousin of Lynn Martin*); **Bruce Beatty, Sandra Hornsby, Gloria Erd** (*friends of Lynn Martin*); **Pearl Geddens** (*mother of Tom Geddens*); **Ross Deal** (*grandson of Mary Kamoroff*); **Nancy Wilson** (*friend of Jeanette Hornsby*); **David Turner** (*brother of Pam Turner*); **Ernie & Betsey Hendrix, Chip Mixon** (*friends of Tommy Gleaton*); **Ron & Janet Walker** (*friends of Tommy & Chris Gleaton*); **James Boggs** (*father of Claire Boggs*); **Robert Bradley** (*Business Associate of Simon Ross*); **Monnie Tiller** (*friend of Chris Derrick*); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (*stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey*); **Haidee Baehr** (*friends of Ruth Frady*); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (*cousins of Gale Frady*); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (*friends of Gale Frady*); **Janet Beck** (*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 04/13 SS: 11 Worship: 34

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 04/13 \$ 8,930.88

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

04/21 Exercise, Class, 10:30 a.m.

Hot Topics & Cold Beer, 7 p.m.

04/23 The Pines @ Trinity, 11:45 a.m.

GLIA Articles Due

Choir, 6 p.m.

T.a.G., 7 p.m.

04/24 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

04/25 Office Closed



We are collecting a Love Offering for *Cristen Hipp* to help with the expenses of her twins born on March 15. Offerings can be given on Sundays or mailed or dropped off at the Church Office. If writing a check, please note Love Offering in the memo line. Because this is a Love Offering for a specific individual, they will not be tax deductible.



Monday, April 21

The group will meet at WECO on **Monday, April 21, at 7 p.m.** If you have any questions, please see Slone Taylor or Patsy Boggs. If you are interested in attending and would like email or text message updates, please email Slone Taylor at Slonetaylor21@yahoo.com or text her your cell phone number to (803) 397-7294 and she will add you to her list.



Sunday, April 27

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on **Sunday, April 27**. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and fellowship!

Please Note: The Ministry Team will meet immediately following Taste of Trinity.



Grieving with God
Tuesday, May 13
11 a.m.

All who are on the journey of grief are invited to join us on Tuesday, May 13, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room. Retired Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain from Richland Hospital, Jerry Fonte, will facilitate the discussion.



Saturday, May 24

The Trinity Ladies Group will meet at Lizard's Thicket on Hwy 1 at 9:30 a.m. on **Saturday, May 24**. They typically meet on the third Saturday of each month, but will be meeting on the 4th Saturday in May. Contact Marie Stiles at (803) 463-9706 if you are interested in being added to the group email and text for notification.

Trinity United Methodist Church

April 20, 2025

Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

Easter Meditation

An extraordinary thing happens.

We gather outside the tomb, hesitant, and frightened. Everyone is afraid of being arrested. Peter denies knowing him. The horizon is still black where the sun waits to rise. It is so quiet we can hear our hearts beat.

Grief tires you like nothing else yet leaves you sleepless in the agony of loss.

So, we are awake long before sunrise not sure if we have slept at all. And we go to the tomb, just to be close to Him....just because we can't let go. Full of fear and anxiety and loss, we walk to the tomb, because there is no place to rest, and He is here. But the stone is rolled away.

How? Why? Why is the stone rolled away? Have they robbed his grave?! Where is he? What have they done with him? Isn't it enough that they have beaten him and spit on him and dragged him through the streets like a criminal? Isn't it enough that they have nailed him to the cross? Now, they have taken his body.

We stand weeping outside the tomb. And as we weep, we bend over to look in the tomb and see two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus has been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

And they say: *'Woman, why are you weeping?'* And we answer, *'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'*

And then there's a man. It must be the gardener. Surely he knows where they've taken him. But it isn't the gardener, and he calls you by name, and you know it is Jesus. And something extraordinary has happened. You saw him die. Yet, here He stands.

Something so profound has happened that life and death will never be the same. Indeed, death will be no more. Sin and death will lose their power and nothing will ever be the same.

The Word became Flesh and walked willingly to the Cross so death and pain, suffering and shame, all that we lost will be regained, for Jesus makes all things new, and his death cancels death forever.

This is the simple story of Easter. No sermon illustration or funny story will do it justice. It is *the* story, and it is the story of new life.

As one of my favorite writers, who died too soon, Rachel Held Evans said so well: *We could not become like God, so God became like us. God showed us how to heal instead of kill, how to mend instead of destroy, how to love instead of hate, how to live instead of long for more. When we nailed God to a tree, God forgave. And when we buried God in the ground, God got up.*¹

This is the story of Easter. It is *the* story.

Or as C. S. Lewis, one of our favorite Christian apologists said in his wonderful classic, *Mere Christianity*:

*Reality, in fact, is usually something you could not have guessed. That is one of the reasons I believe Christianity. It is a religion that you could not have guessed. If it offered us just the kind of universe we had always expected, I should feel we were making it up. But, in fact, it is not the sort of thing anyone would have made up. It has just that strange twist about it that real things have.*²

My beloved favorite, Fredrick Buechner says it too in an Easter Reflection he gave in Chicago in 1993. Buechner wrote:

The Gospels are far from clear about what happened on that first Easter morning.

It began in the dark. The stone had been rolled aside. Matthew alone speaks of an earthquake. In the tomb there were two white clad figures, or possibly just one.

Mary Magdalene seems to have gotten there before anybody else. There was a man she thought at first was the gardener. Perhaps Mary the mother of James was with her and another woman named Joanna.

One account says Peter came too with one of the other disciples. Elsewhere the suggestion is that there were only the women. And the disciples who were somewhere else didn't believe the women's story when they heard it.

There was the sound of people running, of voices. Matthew speaks of what he calls "fear and great joy". Confusion was everywhere.

There's no agreement even as to the role of Jesus himself. Did he appear at the tomb or only later? Where? To whom did he appear? What did he say? What did he do?

¹ Rachel Held Evans, *Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church*, 2015.

²C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Book II, chapter 2, "The Invasion," page 36.

It's not a major production at all and the minor attractions we've created around it—the bunnies, and the baskets & bonnets, the dyed eggs, have so little to do with what it's all about that they neither add much or subtract much.

The fact that it's not much of a story, is of course, the power of it. It doesn't have the ring of great drama, it has the ring of truth.

If the Gospel writers wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They simply seem to be telling it the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself.

When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty but something unimaginable happened there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, The Eastertide.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true---there's nothing left to say. If it is not true—there's nothing left to say. For believers, for unbelievers both life has never been the same again. For some neither has death.

What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who like Magdalene will never stop searching it till they find His face.

Amen.

Will you pray with me? God of new life, transform us and make us new. Help us to search for your face and to see it always in the faces of others, for we surrender all in the name of the One Who Conquered Death, and rose for our sake, Jesus the Christ. Amen.