***Wind IN THE WILDERNESS***

**Lenten Worship Series – Easter**

***Practice Resurrection***

**April 17, 2022**

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**S  Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. Sermon manuscripts are included as a *sample* and not to be preached verbatim. |

**Announcements and Offering**

***Practice Resurrection***

**Call to Worship:**

**Leader:** If I belittle those whom I am called to serve, talk of their weak points; if I adopt a superior attitude…

**ALL:** …then I know nothing of resurrection love.

**Leader:** If I enjoy a joke at the expense of another; if I can in any way slight another in conversation, or even in thought…

**Men:** …then I know nothing of resurrection love.

**Leader:** If I can write an unkind letter, speak an unkind word, think an unkind thought without grief and shame…

**ALL:** …then I know nothing of resurrection love.

**Leader:** If my interest in the work of others is cool; if I think in terms of my own special work; if the burdens of others are not my burdens too, and their joys mine…

**Women:** …then I know nothing of resurrection love.

**Leader:** Practice resurrection…

**ALL:** We are the witnesses to Christ’s one-time resurrection. We demonstrate the power of God’s redemption of the world in how we live and love.

(Adapted from *Calvary Love* by Amy Carmichael,

*Bread and Wine,* pp. 356-360)

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| **Children’s Moment** |

**Leader:** He is risen!

**ALL:** He is risen indeed!

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| **SB#218/HC#233/SOS#181 – Christ the Lord is risen today** | TB-248 – Easter Hymn  HC-233  SOS-181 | HTD3-T9 (4 vs.)  HCD22-T13 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#204 – See, What a Morning** | HC-204 | HCD19-T14 |
| **HC#209 – Come People of the Risen King** | HC-209 | HCD19-T19 |
| **SB#358/HC#241/SOS#30 – Crown Him with many crowns** | TB-162 – Diademata  HC-241  SOS-30 | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.)  HCD23-T11 |
| **SB#276 – Thine is the glory** | TB-746 – Maccabeus | No HT CD |

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| **Drama – Who You Gonna Call?** |

***Jesus Appears to the Disciples***

**Responsive Scripture:**

**Leader: 36**While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them,

**ALL:** “Peace be with you.”

**Leader:** **37**They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. **38**He said to them,

**ALL:** “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? **39**Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

**Leader:** **40**When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. **41**And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them,

**ALL:** “Do you have anything here to eat?”

**Leader:** **42**They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43**and he took it and ate it in their presence. **44**He said to them,

**ALL:** “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

**Leader:** **45**Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46**He told them,

**ALL:** “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47**and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48**You are witnesses of these things.”

Luke 24:36-48, (NIV)

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| **SB#243/HC#164 – Before the throne of God above** | TB-52 – same  HC-164 | No HT CD  HCD15-T14 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#565/HC#89/SOS#43 – All I once held dear** | TB-725 – Knowing You  HC-89  SOS-43 | No HT CD  HCD7-T19 |
| **HC#136 – We All Bow Down** | HC-136 | HCD12-T16 |
| **SB#376/HC#219 – King of kings, majesty** | TB-722 – same  HC-219 | No HT CD  HCD20-T19 |
| **HC#226 – I Worship You** | HC-226 | HCD21-T16 |
| **SB#222 – He is Lord** | TB-649 – same | No HT CD |

**Leader:** Romans 14 in The Message paraphrase says this:

…*So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I’d say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we’re all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren’t going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture:*

*“As I live and breathe,” God says,  
    “every knee will bow before me;  
Every tongue will tell the honest truth  
    that I and only I am God.”*

Romans 14:10-11 (MSG)

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| **SB#222 – He is Lord** | TB-649 – same | No HT CD |

**[Print prayer in Bulletin]**

**Congregational Prayer:**

Lord, move afresh in the midst of Your church today. Come in Your peace; remove all our doubt. Open our minds so that we may understand the Scriptures. Fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may be witnesses of Your resurrection, preachers of repentance and messengers of forgiveness. Amen.

(*The NIV Worship Bible*, p. 1419)

**Message – *Practice Resurrection***

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| **SB#699/HC#207/SOS#88 – Grace alone** | TB-640 – same  HC-207  SOS-88 | No HT CD  HCD19-T17 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#205 – Closer Still** | HC-205 | HCD19-T15 |
| **SB#222 – He is Lord** | TB-649 – same | No HT CD |

**Benediction:**

**14**Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are disorderly. Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone. **15**Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. **16**Rejoice always. **17**Pray continually. **18**Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 

**23**Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ’s coming. **24**The one who is calling you is faithful and will do this. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-18, 23-24 (CEB)

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| **SB#358/HC#241/SOS#30 – Crown Him with many crowns** | TB-162 – Diademata  HC-241  SOS-30 | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.)  HCD23-T11 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#861/HC#149/SOS#41 – In Christ alone** | TB-132 – same  HC-149  SOS-41 | No HT CD  HCD13-T19 |
| **SB#89/HC#161/SOS#48 – O for a thousand tongues to sing** | TB-59 – Azmon  TB-75 – Grimsby  HC-161  SOS-48 | HTD3-T4 (4 vs.)  No HT CD  HCD15-T11 |
| **HC#128 – My Tribute** | HC-128 | HCD11-T18 |
| **HC#198 – In Jesus’ Name** | HC-198 | HCD18-T18 |
| **SB#276 – Thine is the glory** | TB-746 – Maccabeus | No HT CD |

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| **Lent 2022 Easter Sunday** | |
| **DRAMA**  **Who You Gonna Call?**  **By Martyn Scott Thomas**  © Copyright 2021 by Martyn Scott Thomas. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | |
| **Topic:** | The Resurrection |
| **Scripture:** | Luke 24:36-48. |
| **Synopsis:** | Three disciples recount Jesus visiting them after the Resurrection. |
| **Characters:** | Andrew – a disciple of Jesus  Bartholomew – a disciple of Jesus  Matthew – a disciple of Jesus |
| **Props/Costumes:** | Chairs or tall stools for the disciples. Biblical or modern dress. |
| **Setting:** | The three disciples are responding to an unseen interviewer and are unaware of each other. |
| **Running time:** | 2 minutes |

[*Andrew, Bart, and Matthew are seated on stools facing forward.*]

**Andrew:** Was I in the room when he appeared? Yeah, we were all there.

**Bart:** The eleven of us had gathered with a few others of our group.

**Matthew:** I’m not sure how many people were there. Maybe seven [*slight pause*] teen?

**Andrew:** The door was locked.

**Bart:** The door was wide open. Our friends from Emmaus had just shown up.

**Matthew:** I don’t know. I was looking out the window. [*thinking*] The window was definitely open. [*nodding his head*]

**Andrew:** A ghost? No way. I knew who it was.

**Bart:** I think Andrew screamed the loudest. And Matthew jumped on me.

**Matthew:** I don’t know how I got in Bart’s arms.

**Andrew:** He said, “I’m back.”

**Matthew:** I was too busy getting out of Bart’s arms to hear what he said.

**Bart:** He said, “Peace be with you.”

**Andrew:** He told us to look at his hands and feet.

**Bart:** He wanted us to touch his hands and feet.

**Matthew:** [*a little frightened*] Did he say ghost?

**Bart:** He asked us for something to eat.

**Andrew:** We gave him a piece of fish.

**Matthew:** Wait, there was food?

**[*pause*]**

**All:** We were convinced!

**Andrew:** He told us about what was written about him.

**Bart:** He told us about the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.

**Matthew:** He opened our minds to the Scriptures.

**Andrew:** “The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,

**Matthew:** “and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name

**Bart:** “to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

**All:** “You are witnesses of these things.”

**Matthew:** It was him alright. [*pause*] I still think I should’ve been told there was food.

[*Blackout*]

***Wind IN THE WILDERNESS***

**Children’s Moment – Easter**

***Practice Resurrection***

**April 17, 2022**

**By Katie Laidlaw**

**Scripture: Luke 24:36-48; Galatians 2:20**

**Props: Variety of camping supplies to be packed up**

[*The Narrator should call the children of the congregation forward and have them sit or stand around ‘campfire’.*]

**Script:**

[*Packing up camping supplies*] Well, just about everything on my camping trip has gone wrong. I really struggled setting up my tent, tripping and getting injured on the trails, going fishing, getting lost, and messing up my meals. I guess I am not the star of camping trips. However, I have learned quite a lot and feel like I might do a way better job next time.

Have you ever heard the saying “practice makes perfect”? [*Allow children to respond*]

What do you think “practice makes perfect” means? [*Allow children to respond*]

When we are trying to perfect something, we put a lot of time, energy and effort into doing it well. Usually, the things we need or want to practice are important to us.

What are some things you might practice? [*Allow children to respond*]

Did you know that you can practice being a follower of Jesus? There are choices we can make in our daily lives that help us practice being like Jesus.

What are some ways we can practice being like Jesus? [*Allow children to respond*]

Absolutely! Jesus provided us such a wonderful example during His time on earth. We know that Jesus came to the world to save us from our sins. Jesus died on the cross so that we could have forgiveness, new life and friendship with Him! Today, on Easter, we know that Jesus accomplished this! Jesus rose from the dead to show us that the darkness of sin could not win. Jesus’ power and love wins! We want to live our lives in such a way that shows this great love and power that lives in our hearts when we’re friends with Jesus.

When we practice trying to live our lives as Jesus would, the world will not be able to help but notice that there is something different about us. We may never perfect living like Jesus, because we’re human and make mistakes, but we can do our best to make good choices and become closer friends with Jesus every day. This is how we can show the love and power to Jesus to the world, and there is no better day to start practicing than on this day as we celebrate Jesus defeating death!

Galatians 2:20 says, **“I have been crucified with Christ. I don’t live any longer. Christ lives in me. My faith in the Son of God helps me to live my life in my body. He loved me. He gave himself for me.”** (NIRV)

Will you sing the chorus “It’s No Longer I That Liveth” with me? [*Sing chorus*]

Every Easter you’ll hear someone say, “He is risen!” Then everyone around says, “He is risen, indeed!” Will you try it with me?

He is risen!

He is risen, indeed!

**Main Points:**

* We can practice being a follower of Jesus.
* Jesus rose from the dead to show us that the darkness of sin could not win – Jesus’ power and love wins!
* When we practice trying to live our lives as Jesus would, the world will not be able to help but notice that there is something different about us.
* We may never perfect living like Jesus because we’re human and make mistakes. But we can do our best to make good choices and become closer friends with Jesus every day.

**Questions:**

* Have you ever heard the saying “practice makes perfect?”
* What do you think “practice makes perfect” means?
* What are some things you might practice?
* What are some ways we can practice being like Jesus?

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**Scripture:** Luke 24:36-48

**Introduction:**

In his 1973 poem, “Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front,” Wendell Berry admonishes us with these words:

“So, friends, every day do something that won’t compute.  
Love the Lord.  
Love the world.

Work for nothing.  
Take all that you have and be poor.  
Love someone who does not deserve it.  
**…Practice resurrection**.”

He ends this manifesto with two words: “Practice resurrection.” Curious words. We are not God; we cannot resurrect anyone. In fact, some of us can barely get through the day! It seems like an odd idea, to practice resurrection, because death always comes before resurrection.

Our scripture passage today (Luke 24:36-48) is a post-resurrection story from Luke’s gospel. The two disciples have returned from their momentous walk to and from Emmaus, and as they meet with the other disciples, Jesus appears yet again. He proves who he is by showing his friends his wounds (v. 40), and he proves he is not a ghost by eating fish with them (vv. 42-43). He reminds them that in his resurrection, ancient prophecies have come true (v. 44):

* His role as prophet was foretold in Deuteronomy 18:15-20
* His sufferings were prophesied in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53
* His resurrection was predicted in Psalm 16:9-11 and Isaiah 53:10-11

He also gets them ready to live by practicing resurrection.

**Transition:**

On this Easter Resurrection Sunday, we will explore what it means to practice resurrection—looking for ways that move us from death to life. Because of Easter, we look to the darkness of the world and our hearts, confident that Jesus has conquered sin and made peace with God through the cross. But there’s more than that. We also act as agents of resurrection, confident that Jesus cares about the world and has the power to restore it. And we have the opportunity to retell this story of resurrection with our lives as we wait for Jesus to return. Here are three ways we can embody the resurrection in our daily lives.

1. **We confidently move toward brokenness and pain.**

To practice resurrection is to put the power of Easter into our lives; it is to live the way that Jesus calls us to live. It is to love our enemies: both our corporate enemies (like terrorists and hatemongers) and personal enemies (like the sassy neighbor down the street that doesn’t curb her dog, the difficult family member, or the person at work who lies about you). Practicing resurrection means to love all of these. And loving them means praying for them. This is easier said than done, and it’s not humanly possible, in direct contrast of what our human nature cries out for us to do and feel. But it is like God, and God can transform us if we desire it.

Practicing resurrection means talking with your brother or sister when he or she has something against you. This is extraordinarily difficult to do sometimes—to say to someone, “Look, I know there’s a problem between us. Can we talk about it?” It is taking a surprising initiative for peace, the same way that Christ did: “…by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross” (Colossians 1:20, NIV).

Often we run the risk of taking resurrection too lightly and, at the same time, making it too complicated.

We take it too lightly when we think it’s all about individual lives, when our thinking goes something like, “I’ll die and go to Heaven, and it doesn’t matter to me what happens to everyone else.”

Sometimes we make resurrection too shallow, and we liken it to the tulips blooming in the spring or the dogwoods blossoming once again. We sing hallelujah on Easter then we go back to the tomb, grateful for the blooming flowers, but really too busy or worn out to be bothered with committing to new life that goes beyond the glories of spring.

We make it too complicated when we reduce God’s resurrecting to something that happened only to Jesus—something that cannot be explained or understood or even embraced.

And sometimes I wonder if we avoid resurrection because it always begins with death. Dr. Chris Smith says,

“Resurrection is a risky thing. Resurrection life has everything to do with investing our lives, with committing our lives, with placing our lives in all those places where human beings suffer and are oppressed, and in all those places where people yearn for new life.”

In other words, resurrection requires something of us, something that may be sacrificial.

And we might resist resurrection, because resurrection means change, although it does not go back and change the past. Jesus’ rising from the tomb did not erase the facts of his unjust condemnation and his terrible death.

N.T. Wright describes the significance of the resurrection this way:

“The message of the Resurrection is that this present world matters; that the problems and pains of this present world matter; that the living God has made a decisive bridgehead into this present world with his healing and all-conquering love; and that, in the name of this strong love, all the evils, all the injustices, and all the pains of the present world must now be addressed with the news that healing, justice, and love have won the day. That’s why we pray: ‘Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.’ Make no bones about it: Easter Day was the first great answer to that prayer.”

Resurrection cannot change the past, but it can move us into the future with a new light. And change is hard, as we all know; even good change is hard. Getting sober is good change, but ask anyone who has traveled that particular journey and they will tell you it’s hard. Choosing life over death may mean change – a good change, but a hard one.

1. **We seek justice and peace.**

If indeed Christians are an Easter people, if this story of Jesus being raised from the dead is utterly foundational to our identity, then what does that look like? What does this story invite us to? Where is God leading us into new life?

Resurrection takes place where death has occurred and where injustice has happened. That’s a hard place to begin. Therefore, in order to experience resurrection, we must put ourselves in those places of death and injustice. Again, Dr. Chris Smith says,

“I believe that Christianity is about forming a people who take the power of resurrection life very seriously and move our bodies and our resources again into places that that power can bring about new life.… Resurrection…demands that we sink down our roots even deeper into the places where we live, and the places we can make a difference. Perhaps resurrection has everything to do with placing our bodies someplace concretely and strategically and carefully and passionately figuring out what kind of transformation is needed where we live and in this moment of history.”

When you walk around your neighborhood, do you notice what needs transformation? Do you see what is broken, hurting, lacking? Noticing these things is good and talking to people is good too.

What would resurrection look like for the people we see holding cardboard signs on the side of the road? What does new life look like for people coming into our building for help, and the caseworker who tends to them, and the people who live in our neighborhoods who pass by them on their way to work, and the folks that own the stores and restaurants around them?

Maybe resurrection looks like adequate medical services that address addiction and mental health. Maybe resurrection looks like staying on top of the trash that accumulates. Maybe resurrection looks like honest and compassionate conversations that are followed up with concrete actions.

I wonder what resurrection would look like in our cities where gun violence runs rampant? Maybe new life looks like renewed commitment to safer gun laws. Maybe new life looks like understanding the generational stress in some of our communities that leads to a mindset in which violence is the only answer to conflict. Maybe it looks like neighbors pulling together and affecting change.

Resurrection does not always have to look like Jesus bursting the bonds of death. That’s way too limiting an understanding of what God does for us in divine love. Resurrection looks like unexpected life in those places and events we thought were dead and buried.

1. **We hold to hope knowing the story isn’t over.**

Brazilian theologian Leonardo Boff says this: “Wherever in mortal life goodness triumphs over the instincts of hatred, wherever one heart opens to another, wherever a righteous attitude is built and room is created for God, there the resurrection has begun.”

One of the prevailing images of the church is the body of Christ. And we are, indeed, the body of Christ, but not simply the body of Christ, we are the body of the *risen* Christ! We in the church cannot help but practice resurrection in all that we proclaim, in all the ways that we witness, in all that we do and say in service to our God.

**Conclusion:**

We have the opportunity to practice resurrection all around us, as we love God and the world, as we love the unlovable. We practice resurrection when we notice where and how our neighbors suffer and join with them in creating newness. So let us walk together toward the new life. Let us practice resurrection!