

He Has Risen!

The women came to the tomb of Jesus early on that first Easter morning. They came, with all the love and tenderness women are known for, to anoint his body with spices. They never expected what they found. They expected to honor the dead with proper rituals; instead they found an empty tomb. As they stood there, perplexed, they saw two men in “dazzling apparel.” Then came the reassuring words, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen” (Luke 24:4-6).

Some think the women simply hallucinated. They argue that Mary, in particular, was so captured by Jesus’ personality that she tricked herself into imagining the whole experience.

No shred of evidence exists to support such a theory. The record clearly shows that the women never expected to find the tomb empty. Jesus told his disciples he would die and rise again, but in their confusion and unbelief they had forgotten his words. The resurrection caught them totally by surprise; they didn’t understand what had happened and were crushed to think the body might have been stolen. But their surprise and anguish melted away when the angel refreshed their minds and renewed their hopes with the message, “He has risen.”

This message shattered the expectations of a group of loving women. But shattered expectations in this case turned tragedy into triumph. This was the message the apostles preached with unshakable conviction and invincible logic. They went everywhere preaching Christ and the resurrection from the dead.

The resurrection was not only the heart of their message; it was the center of their hope. If the grave could not hold Christ, neither could it hold those who put their complete trust in him. “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?...But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:55,57).

In Christ, death has been defeated—physical death, leading to the grave, and spiritual death, leading to hell. In Easter we find our true hope—hope that is really ours, if we place our trust in Christ.

*He is
not here,
for he is risen,
as he said.*

Matthew 28:6

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 286

“Worship Christ, the Risen King”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 270

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing!”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 268

“Welcome, Happy Morning”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 508

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 30:19-26

Sermon

WHAT GOD WANTS TO GIVE

*Hymn of Response # 275

“The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Colossians.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Friday, May 23-Monday, May 26. Sierra Christian Conference Association Memorial Day Weekend conference. Pastor Nathaniel Vroom will speak on “Nicodemus: A Disciple in the Shadows?” See the pamphlet on the sanctuary table for more information and a registration form. No registrations are accepted after May 15.

Monday July 7-Friday, July 11. Summer Camp at Redwood Christian Park, Boulder Creek. Dr. James N. Anderson will speak on “War of the Worldviews: Defending the Faith in a Pluralistic Culture.” More information and an online registration form are available on the Presbytery's website: <https://pncnopc.org/summer-camp/>.