

Worship on April 17, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Edwin Webster)

Easter Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 258 Thine be the glory
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Prayer for our children
- Praise song – BOP 252 He is Lord

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Sermon: He appeared to me
- The Lord's Table

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 243 Jesus Christ is risen today

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. He is risen! Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, April 17th, 2022. Easter Sunday. We are here to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and King! May the joy of salvation fills our hearts as we worship and praise the Lord.

. On Friday, April 15th, Audrey Crake was called by God. Please pray for her family.

. We will have the Communion at the Lord's Table celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

. There will be Annual General Meeting 2021 after Sunday worship on May 1st. Please plan to stay for AGM.

. From today! We will have coffee and cupcake after worship service.

. The Rev. Soong will have his study leave from April 18th to 24th. He will be back on 25th.

Christine Samuel will come and lead worship for us. And the Rev. Jeff Loach will take care of emergent pastoral care. (905-859-0843)

. Rev. Soong has his office hours on Wednesday from 9am-12pm. (not on April 20th)

. Prayer is unseen, yet powerful. If you have prayer needs, let us know.

Cheryl Daddis @ cheryl@pathcom.com or Soong @ revsoonghuh@hotmail.com

. Please help Ukraine with donation and prayer, and support the Aurora Food Pantry and Food Bank.

. Thank you for your continuing support with your gifts. As we offer our gifts to the Lord, let us give our hearts and our lives to the Lord as well. May God be in the centre of your hearts.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us open our hearts and minds,
and focus on our Lord and King.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Hallelujah! O Day of Resurrection, let us shine with joy!

All: Christ has led us from death to life.

One: O Day of Resurrection, let us live with hope!

All: Christ has led us from earth to heaven.

One: Christ has risen from the dead. Hallelujah!

All: He has risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Praise song – 258 Thine be the glory

<u>Vs. 1</u> Thine be the glory Risen conquering Son Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away Kept the folded grave clothes Where Thy body lay	<u>Vs. 2</u> Lo Jesus meets us Risen from the tomb Lovingly He greets us Scatters fear and gloom Let the church with gladness Hymns of triumph sing For her Lord now liveth Death hath lost its sting
<u>Vs. 3</u> No more we doubt Thee Glorious Prince of life Life is nought without Thee Aid us in our strife Make us more than conquerors Through Thy deathless love Bring us safe through Jordan To thy home above	<u>Chorus</u> Thine be the glory Risen conquering Son Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Gracious, life-giving God, maker of all things visible and invisible, on the first day of the world, you spoke and out of chaos came creation. Out of shadows came light. On the first day of the week, Christ was resurrected by your grace, and out of death came life. And you always come to us through the Holy Spirit, to shine light on our way forward, offering your gift of new life in Christ Jesus. Praise and honour and blessing be to you, O God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, this day and every day, now and always.

Loving and life-giving God, you raised Jesus from the grave and shattered the powers of sin and death. But we confess that we remain captive to fear, resisting the hope that new life is possible for us. We hide in tombs of indifference, seeking comfort rather than justice in this world.

We cling to resentment and disappointment, refusing the freedom that comes with forgiveness. Forgive us, O God, and restore us to joy and wholeness through your great mercy.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ, This Easter Day, God has turned our mourning into dancing!

God has taken off our sackcloth and clothed us with joy! We are God's forgiven people.

Let us be at peace with God, with one another, and with ourselves, through the undying mercy of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to share our peace to each other.

Prayer for children

Precious Jesus, you are risen! You gave your life for us. You filled our hearts with your great love. Let this precious faith flow to our children. Let these precious children and youth have you in the centre of their hearts. Help them live with their true identity. Help them truly live with your love and power. Let them grow in you, precious Jesus. In Jesus' precious and beautiful name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 252 He is Lord

He is Lord, he is Lord; he is risen from the dead and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Prayer for Illumination:

God of the Living Word, by the power of your Holy Spirit moving in us and around, open our minds to understand, our hearts to love, and our wills to carry out your mission in the strength of our Risen Lord, your Word made flesh. Amen.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. 3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."

SERMON: He appeared to me

Apostle's Paul's teaching is not easy, most of the time. V1-2, **"Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain."**

These verses explain the core message of Christianity. Paul preached the Good News. He proclaimed it. People in Corinth received Paul's teaching. They took it as truth and they built their lives upon the truth.

Then, what is the Good News? It is that they are being saved by holding firmly to the message of Paul. He says, v2 **"It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you – unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place."** (NLT) **"Unless, you have come to believe in vain."**

Christian belief is vain without one thing. I am going to talk about that one thing today.

Today's sermon title is **"He appeared to me."**

V3-4, "I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said."

This message Paul taught to others is not from Paul himself. It was passed on to the people of God and to Paul. This message is from the Scripture and was accomplished by Jesus. As the Scripture said, Jesus Christ died for our sins. And just like the Scriptures said, Jesus was buried, and raised from the dead.

One book, the Bible has the authority of God in Christianity. To have authority, it must be true. It needs to prove the value of it.

What does the Bible say? In short, in the Old Testaments, it talks about the Coming Messiah. Messiah means the Saviour. Saviour will come save the humanity, so wait for him, this is the message of the Old Testament. The New Testaments says, the Coming Messiah is Jesus.

This Jesus is in the centre of the Bible. Jesus is in the centre of the Christian truth.

What is the core message of Jesus?

It is Jesus being raised again. It is Jesus being resurrected. Easter Message, He is risen! This is the core message of Christianity.

Why is this the main focus? Why is Christianity meaningless without Jesus being raised?

Tell me your friends' name who was dead, but alive now.

Tell me anyone's name who experienced death, but now in life.

Death is the end. Everyone human being will have to face death. Jesus came to the earth as a perfect human, and at the same time, he was a perfect God. This is the beginning of the mystery. He performed many many mysterious and wonderful miracles. Last week, we talked about Jesus's triumphant entry. People welcomed Jesus. Why? People liked Jesus. Why? Jesus was beneficial for them. Jesus healed. Jesus fed. Jesus helped people. But, Jesus proclaimed that he was not the political leader. He announced that he was the Coming Messiah whom the Bible prophesized. Jesus turned off the expectations of the people. People turn against Jesus. And they shouted, "Crucify him!" Jesus died on the cross, without sin, but with the consequence of our sin.

Luke 23:44, “It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon”

Matthew 27:50-51, “Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.”

Matthew 27:54, “Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!.”

Crucifixion was a method of capital punishment at that time. Centurion, a soldier who conducted crucifixion, witnessed many deaths. But, he confessed, “Truly this man was God’s Son.” The death of Jesus was different. Jesus said that he was God and this made people furious. People could not take Jesus’ blasphemy. But, after his death, Jesus’ claim turned out to be true. People were in fear. They went back to their life. There were Jesus’ disciples too. In fear, they gathered together not knowing what to do.

To them, after three days, resurrected Jesus came in peace. **John 20:19-23, “19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”**

Jesus appeared to his disciples. Jesus removed fear and anxiety from his disciples and gave peace. And Jesus told them to receive the Holy Spirit as Jesus sent them to the world. Jesus appeared to his 12 disciples first and then bigger group, 500 of his followers. He proved his resurrection to many people.

To Paul, Jesus appeared in light. **Acts 22:6-8, “6 “While I was on my way and approaching Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ 8 I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ Then he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.’”**

Paul was on the way to persecute Jesus followers. Saul, Paul, encountered Jesus Christ the Lord in the light. With this miraculous encounter, Paul realized that Jesus is real.

Because of this encounter with Jesus, Paul was able to see himself with honest eyes. **V9, “For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecute the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain.”**

Hebrews 12:1-2, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”

We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. We can only name one person who experienced death and then now is alive. But, we can name many many people who encountered Jesus in various ways. On this Easter Sunday, let us come Jesus. Jesus appeared to each and

every one of us. Let us remind ourselves of the time we first encountered Jesus as our Lord and King. And if you have not met Jesus personally, ask Jesus come to your hearts and meet you. Let us celebrate this love and shout out his love with joy.

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

The Lord's Table THIS is time for the Communion at the Lord's Table.

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus appeared to two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, but they did not recognize him. Later while he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

May the presence of Christ be made known to us in this time of Communion.

*(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) (Please say **BOLD print together**)*

L: The Lord be with you. **ALL: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: Holy One, on this joyful Easter day, we offer you our gratitude and praise with hearts full of love, for we have seen your grace and power, rolling away the stone of sorrow and despair, bursting from the tomb in the gift of new life. And so we join our voices with all your creatures high and low, with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on earth, to celebrate your resurrecting power. **We lift our hearts in joyful praises.**

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: Receive our praise and joy this day, O Christ. Your resurrection promises that there are new possibilities for us and our weary world. Even when we falter in discouragement, even if we hesitate at the news that your great love has come back to embrace us, You will not let us go. You call us by name to assure us of your love. You open your arms to welcome us back to your side. You have spread this table for us, offering us not only the bread and wine, but your very self, present with us here and everywhere. In anticipation of receiving these gifts, **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us, breathe upon us now and upon this bread and wine. May they be for us Christ's body and blood, gifts of new life, with the power to make us whole. As this bread and wine become a part of us, may we become a part of you, Lord Jesus, united with you and with each other in love. Dare us to live for justice and joy, trusting that all things will work together for good through the power of love that raised you from the dead, the power of the love we share in your name.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE – prepare your Bread and Wine

“This is the **body** of Christ, broken for you.” (BREAD)

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our King and Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us take it)

“This is the **blood** of Christ, poured out for you.” (CUP)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our King and Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

Loving Jesus, thank you for taking our sin and death upon the cross. Thank you for being without sin. Thank you for rising from the dead. Thank you for overcoming the power of death. Thank you for cleansing our sin. Thank you for restoring our brokenness and reconnecting the disconnectedness from God. Thank you for giving us life. Thank you for appearing to us.

Lord Jesus, we lift our voices and we offer up our whole being to you in praise and worship. You are our Lord and you are the Source of all that we are and you are our Guidance and Truth.

Help us have you in the centre of our hearts every day.

Gracious Father God, Audrey Crake was called to your side on Friday. We pray for her family. With your love and grace, embrace the family. Give your peace to them. And fill their hearts with the hope for you and their loved Audrey. Our faith is not in vain because you rose from the dead. Our faith is unseen, but so real because you are alive, Lord. Precious Jesus, embrace the whole family and us, church, and fill our hearts with the longing for you. In their grieving process, hold their hands and embrace their hearts in your peace and love.

We also pray for those who are experiencing physical illnesses, emotional struggles, and relational difficulties, and other hardships. Father God, give them strength to power. Help them see you through their situations. Help them hold on to you. Teach them that you are with them holding their hands. We are weak, so we fall when we meet difficulties. Help us. Come to us.

On this Easter Sunday, fill our hearts with the joy of your resurrection. Fill our hearts with the happiness of life and hope.

We want to live as Resurrection people. Walk with us. Guide us. In Jesus' precious and powerful and beautiful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering.

On Easter Day, we celebrate God's most precious gift to us in Christ's dying and his rising.

As we present our gifts to God this day, may our generosity reflect God's goodness to us and the hope we have to offer the world in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord.

Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Generous God, we come before you with grateful hearts, recognizing how much you have given us in Christ Jesus. Bless these gifts so that they may spread the hope and joy we feel this day to those who have not yet tasted your kindness. With our gifts, we offer ourselves to you in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen

Song for the Journey BOP 243 Jesus Christ is risen today

Vs. 1 Jesus Christ is risen today Hallelujah Our triumphant holy day Hallelujah Who did once upon the cross Hallelujah Suffer to redeem our loss Hallelujah	Vs. 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing Hallelujah Unto Christ our heavenly King Hallelujah Who endured the cross and grave Hallelujah Sinners to redeem and save Hallelujah
Vs. 3 But the pains which He endured Hallelujah Our salvation have procured Hallelujah Now above the sky he's King Hallelujah Where the angels ever sing Hallelujah	Vs. 4 Sing we to our God above, Hallelujah Praise eternal las his love Hallelujah Praise him , all ye heavenly host Hallelujah Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Hallelujah

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Easter Sunday, we are reminded that we are the Resurrection people. We have the hope for eternity. We have truth in our faith because Jesus is risen! This risen Jesus wants you. This risen Jesus wants to engage meaningful relationships with you. Accept him with your hearts and hold his hand and live with him.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.