

*Celebration of the Resurrection*  
*Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022*  
*Crossnore Presbyterian Church*  
*200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386*  
*Crossnore, NC 28616*



Prelude: *Easter Anthem* composed by William Billings  
Sung by Hastings College Choir: <https://youtu.be/pyRhy6NjINA>

Welcome and Announcements (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship # 243 *Be Not Afraid*  
[https://youtu.be/4jL\\_vNr91bw](https://youtu.be/4jL_vNr91bw) - The London Fox Taize Choir

BE NOT AFRAID

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!  
Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

**Call to Worship:**

After nights of deep darkness,  
**we come in the bright light of this Easter morning.**

We come in search of something.

**We come in search of the living.**

We come in search of the Living One,  
**the Resurrected One.**

We come with eyes open to the dark emptiness of the tomb.

**We come with ears tuned to hear the angel proclamation:**

Christ is not here, for he is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed!**

**Hymn of Praise # 232 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today***

EASTER HYMN

Sing along with the King's College Choir: <https://youtu.be/rMwPEmUMP7U>

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

**Call to Confession:**

The call to confession is always a call to experience God's mercy. In admitting the truth of our lives to the Risen Christ, we open ourselves to the experience of grace and healing. Trusting in that divine love, let us pray.

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**

Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace (moment of silent confession). In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, hear the good news of the Gospel: the tomb is empty! Our Lord and Savior has risen from the grave! That which has been dead is alive! No barrier, none whatsoever, can keep us from the love of God! In Christ, our sins are forgiven! **Alleluia! Amen!**

**Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 245 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!***

<https://youtu.be/oLFv7vIDxNQ> - Notre Dame Folk Choir

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!

All creation, join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!

Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!

Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!

Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

**First Lesson: Isaiah 43:14-21**

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon and break down all the bars, and the shouting of the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation. I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

**Special Music: *An Easter Hallelujah* sung by Cassandra Star & her sister Callahan**

<https://youtu.be/dszpVNJikIM>

## **Second Lesson: Mark 16:1-8**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**Sermon: "Dead Ends or Open Doors" (PDF attachment)**

**Rev. Kathy Campbell**

### **\*An Easter Affirmation of Faith:**

**We believe in an astounding God, who surprises us on Easter morning, who reveals through an empty tomb how overflowingly full of God the creation is. We believe in God, who is light in the darkness, who never gives up on love, who is always working for our good, who weeps when we weep and laughs when we laugh, who calls us to be more than we are as God relentlessly transforms our tears into alleluias.**

**We believe in the Christ, present at and in the creation, heard in the words of prophets, enfleshed in the birth of a long-sought Messiah, alive in the lessons taught to disciples, not stuck in a tomb of despair, nailed to cross, or buried in the past, but living forever, and walking with us on our journeys today, seen in our stories, present in everything we can see, touch, and imagine.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the invisible presence of God, the joy, hope, and peace of possibilities opening all around us all the time. We believe the Spirit calls us to community, to compassion, to welcome, and to acts of mercy and justice, so that the whole world will quiver with wonder and hope.**

**We are people of faith in the risen Christ, and we see our Christ in everyone and in everything. We strive to live in such a way that the world will see Christ rising again, in us and through us, with the message of Easter. God cannot be contained; Not by books, not by traditions, not by institutions, and not by tombs. God lives. Christ is risen. Alleluia. Amen.**

### **Hymn of Meditation # 246 *Christ Is Alive!***

**TRURO**

**<https://youtu.be/AIAtSjCJQOc> - Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sacramento**

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**In every insult, rift, and war  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise**

**Prayers of the People:**

God of the bright and morning star,  
God of the rising sun,  
God of darkness banished,  
we praise and worship you!  
For empty tombs: thank you!  
For disciples running with good news: thank you!  
For your presence, alive, powerful, resurrected: thank you!  
We celebrate your victory over death,  
over all the powers that would defeat us.

Help us to grasp resurrection;  
to understand its power,  
to see its force at work in our world,  
overturning evil empires,  
changing the hatred within us,  
moving the world slowly, forcefully,  
bending us towards love and truth.

On this day of great gladness  
empower us to be your ambassadors,  
proclaiming good news.  
Good news in our kitchens and living rooms,  
good news in our neighborhoods and communities,  
good news in schools, hospitals, offices, and prisons.  
Help us to be that good news,  
walking softly on this good earth,  
caring gently for all people,  
living hopefully into your kingdom.

Today we think of all who are grieving, especially...  
*(name those who are experiencing loss)*  
and for the sick in body, mind, or spirit, especially...  
*(name those who are ill)*  
also for places in the world that are torn by war and bloodshed...  
*(name countries at war).*  
We pray for your healing and peace  
that passes all understanding.

In this world of broken hopes and dreams  
we catch sight of your kingdom come,  
in the person of Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns in us forever  
and who taught us to pray: Our Father... Amen.

**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:**

What do we bring from our own lives and treasures to offer to God to bless so that dead ends may be transformed into open doors? Let us receive this morning's offering.

**Doxology # 608**

<https://youtu.be/BKcni5iJI> - Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore.

**Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

God of life, in raising Jesus from the dead, you triumphed over the power of the grave and opened the way to your kingdom of life. You have called us to bear witness to your good news. Let the gifts we dedicate, and the lives we lead, proclaim the glory of the Risen Christ, in whose name we pray. Alleluia! Amen.

**Closing Hymn # 238 *Thine Is the Glory***

JUDAS MACCABEUS

<https://youtu.be/lXzmjNE-yLA> - King's College Choir

Thine is 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.

**Refrain:**

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

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 the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught 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. [Refrain]

**Charge and Benediction:**

As you go out into God's world this week, be Easter people!  
Be those who say, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?  
Jesus is not here. He is risen."

Be ready to be surprised with what God will do next.

Look for the Risen Christ in those you meet.

Let the Holy Spirit nudge and guide you.

The tomb is empty because Jesus is out in the world,  
and now we must go out into the world too!

May the joy and wonder of that first Easter morning  
live in your hearts today and everyday. Amen.

**Postlude: Easter Medley including the beloved hymn "Because He Lives," "My Redeemer Lives"  
by Nicole C. Mullen, and "Arise My Love" by Newsong**

Sung by Anthem Lights: <https://youtu.be/f26P1ftbCco>