

GATHERED WORSHIP SERVICE

for the
**Glory of God
and the**

Renewal of His People

Easter March 27, 2016



To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Glorifying God...

Embracing Scripture...

Loving Corpus Christi...

GATHERING SONG

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

Words by George Matheson, Music by Christopher Miner

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

REFLECTION and PREPARATION

He Is Exalted

Words and Music: Twila Paris

He is exalted the King is exalted on high
I will praise Him
He is exalted forever exalted
And I will praise His name

He is the Lord forever His truth shall reign
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name
He is exalted the King is exalted on high
He is exalted the King is exalted on high
He is exalted the King is exalted on high

WORSHIPING GOD'S GREATNESS

*(*Indicates where congregation is invited to stand, as able)*

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Easter Greeting

Minister: Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen indeed!

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Congregation: It is fitting and right to do so.

***SONG of ADORATION**

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today

Words and Music: Charles Wesley and Samuel Arnold

Christ the Lord is ris'n today alleluia
Sons of men and angels say alleluia
Raise your joys and triumphs high alleluia
Sing ye heavens and earth reply alleluia

Lives again our glorious King alleluia
Where O death is now thy sting alleluia
Dying once He all doth save alleluia
Where thy 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

Soar we now where Christ has led alleluia
Following our exalted Head alleluia
Made like Him like Him we rise alleluia
Ours the cross the grave the skies alleluia

***PRAYER of INVOCATION and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S GRACE

CONFESSION of FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CONFESSION of SIN

(please, pray the following in unison)

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
We have sinned against You
and against our fellow men,
In thought and word and deed,
In the evil we have done,
And in the good we have not done,
Through ignorance, through weakness,
Through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us,
Forgive us all that is past;
And grant that we may serve You in newness of life
To the glory of Your name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE of PARDON

Psalm 103:8-13

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
13 As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Words and Music: Stuart Townsend

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no power no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Fellowship Books. Please take a moment to fill out the information on the attendance pads located underneath the seat on the inner aisles, providing any information to enable us to better serve you. When you finish, please pass the pads down the row so everyone has the opportunity to do so.

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Ben Hailey, RUF Texas A&M
www.ruf.org/ministry/texas-am

Sympathy is no substitute for action.

David Livingstone, missionary to Africa

PRAYER of COMMITTAL for our OFFERINGS

GIVING OF OFFERINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

By Grace Through Faith

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

PRAYER for GOD'S PEOPLE and HIS WORLD

Please contact Tammy at the church office for prayer needs and updates.

And Can It Be

Words and Music: Charles Wesley and Thomas Campbell

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood
Died He for me who caused His pain
For me who Him to death pursued
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me

He left His Father's throne above
So free so infinite His grace
Humbled Himself so great His love
And bled for all His chosen race
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God it found out me
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke the dungeon flamed with light
My chains fell off my heart was free
I rose went forth and followed Thee
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me

No condemnation now I dread
Jesus and all in Him is mine
Alive in Him my living Head
And clothed in righteousness divine
Bold I approach th'eternal throne
And claim the crown through Christ my own
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me

EMBRACING GOD'S WORD

*READING and PREACHING of GOD'S WORD

1 Peter 1:3-9

Born Again to a Living Hope

1 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*SONG of RESPONSE

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Words and Music: Thomas Obediah Chisholm and William Marion Runyan

Great is Thy faithfulness O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
New mercies I see
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me

Summer and winter And springtime and harvest
Sun moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness mercy and love

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
New mercies I see
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
New mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Words of Christ's Institution

*Minister: Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.*

**Congregation: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Minister: The gifts of God are for the people of God.

All are invited to the table together whether eating and drinking or not. There are prayers on the back of the bulletin to assist you in praying, particularly if the Christian faith is new or unknown to you. Elders are also available to pray with all persons here.

Feel free to bring children forward. If they are not partaking the bread and wine or juice, they may indicate clearly to the server by clasping their hands. Upon request, our servers will gladly pray for and with your children.

If you are unable, physically, to proceed forward but do wish to partake, servers will come to your seat with the elements.

Serving of the Elements *(wine is in the outer ring of the trays; juice in the inner)*

***SONG of CELEBRATION**

Doxology

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709 Music: Louis Bourgeois's Geneven Psalter, 1551

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

Numbers 6:24-26

Congregation: **(Loudly) Alleluia! Amen!**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

***POSTLUDE**

*We praise the Lord for our accompanists this morning
– vocalists and instrumentalists and audio and video technicians.*

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WORSHIP GUIDE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

This historic anthem was written in 1739 by Charles Wesley a year after his dramatic conversion to Christianity. Wesley wrote it for the first worship service to be held in the Foundry Meeting House, which was previously a deserted iron factory in London.

It was originally named "Hymn for Easter Day" and consisted of eleven verses. Wesley's version did not contain the alleluias at the end of each line. For centuries it has been associated with the tune "Easter Hymn," but that was not the music Wesley originally used with it.

The tune, "Easter Hymn," whose author is unknown, first appeared in in the book *Lyra Davidica* (The Harp of David). This collection from 1708 contained hymns and songs which were mostly translated from German.

Years later, an unnamed editor joined "Easter Hymn" to Wesley's text. He had to add the Alleluias at the end of each line to make it fit the tune. One of the most famous hymns in the Christian church is the culmination of three talented people who likely never knew each other.

Prayers of Meditation

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and show me the reality of who You are. – *Amen.*

Prayer of Belief

Heavenly Father, I admit that I am more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through Your Son Jesus, I can be more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You that He lived the life I should have lived, and paid the debt and punishment I deserved. Receive me now for His sake. I turn from my sins and receive Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. – *Amen.*

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, help me to look to You as the fulfillment of all my needs, and to turn from every false satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to You, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. – *Amen.*

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, You have called us to follow You in a life of committed discipleship in Your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with Your people, and live in the fullness of Your Spirit. – *Amen*