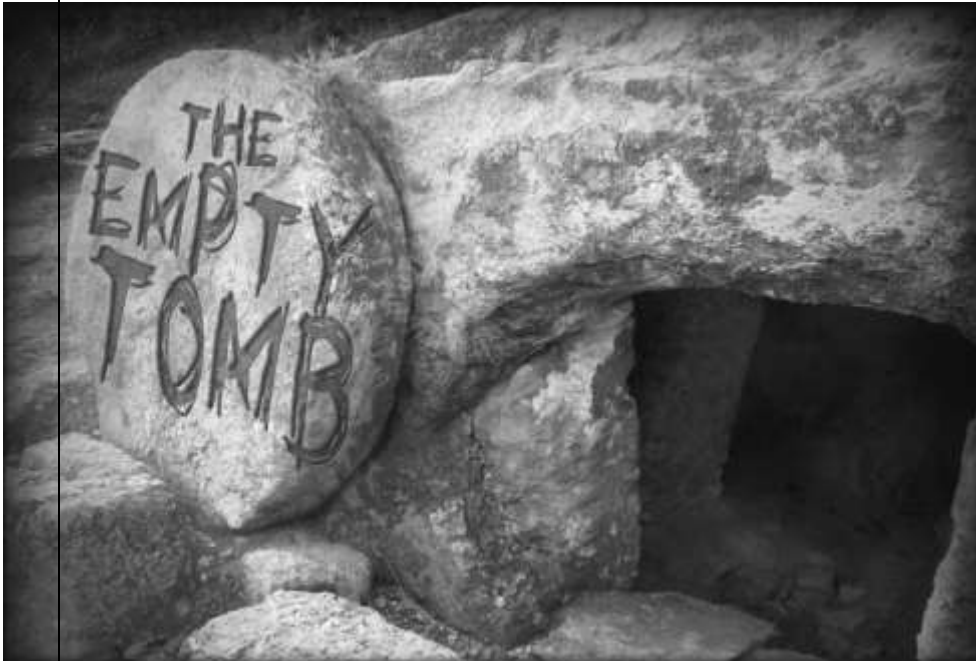


WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

EASTER March 27, 2016



THE EMPTY TOMB

Hymn: Hallelujah

532

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right...
~Phillips Brooks, "An Easter Carol"

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." - Pope John Paul II

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

Hymn: Christ is alive!

(1-2)

836

Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us throughout our Lenten journey. You have celebrated our successes and our growing understanding of your love; and you have mourned our failures and rejections of your healing mercies. This day, as we have gathered to celebrate the joy of Easter, let us remember that we are to become "Easter People", people of the Resurrection; people who know that what was thought to be impossible has been conquered. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Fill us with your healing love and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world. For we ask this in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture: **The Resurrection of Jesus**

Luke 24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.' ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Gracious God, We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.

Hymn: Christ is alive! (3-4) 836

Resurrection Experience teaches that life is what you make it, so get what you can while you can because it will be over soon enough. And the Easter message says, "Really? How can you be so sure?" Death is real, but it is not final. In Jesus, life gets the last word. The Easter message calls you from your old belief in death to a new belief in life. The claim that the tomb could not hold Jesus, and the idea that the one who died by crucifixion has now risen is so outrageous that it might make you wonder whether it might--just might--be true. The apostles seemed convinced that the message was nonsense, nothing more than "an idle tale" (24:11). Death was death. Yet the message was so outrageous that Peter had to go and take a look for himself (24:12). He had to wonder, "What if it is true?"

Those who gather for worship on Easter Sunday follow in the footsteps of Peter. They have heard the rumour that Jesus is alive and come to hear again for themselves: "What if it is true? What if death is real, but not final? What if Jesus is not merely past but present? What if Jesus were to meet me here? What would life be then?" The Easter reading stops with Peter's amazement, but the Easter story continues far beyond, as God continues to challenge the certainty of death with the promise of life.

Hymn: Christ is alive! (5) 836

Invitation: *This is the joyful feast of the people of God! Men, women, and children will come from North and South, and from East and West,*

and sit at table in the kingdom. The kingdom of God is not far away – it is here, among us, and God invites us to join that feast now. Come, for all is ready.

Hymn: This is the feast of victory (verses 1-3) 246

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise. When the bread is divided, alleluia. When the table is set, alleluia. When the hungry are fed, alleluia. When peace is celebrated, alleluia. When communities are brought together, alleluia. When neighbours love each other, alleluia.* (Continue in thanksgiving) *Come Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be opened, that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed, in one another. Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

Hymn: This is the feast of victory (verses 4- 5) 246

Communion

Affirmation after Communion We who were no people are named anew- Easter people – **hallelujah is our song.** We are people of the resurrection.

Hymn: Thine be the glory (1-2) 258

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

In all these things we are more than conquerors through God who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.