

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 8, 2018
“BLESSED WITHOUT SEEING”**

PRESERVICE MUSIC..... “Christ The Lord Is Risen Today”

**Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia!
Christian, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim’s feet. Alleluia!**

**For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner’s stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is risen on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!**

**Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is risen on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today" written by Charles Wesley, Samuel Arnold Public Domain CCLI Song: 27965
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“My Redeemer Lives”

**I know He rescued my soul
His blood covered my sin
I believe I believe**

**My shame He's taken away
My pain is healed in His name
I believe I believe**

**I'll raise the banner
'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives**

**I know He rescued my soul
His blood covered my sin
I believe I believe**

**My shame He's taken away
My pain is healed in His name
I believe I believe**

**I'll raise the banner
'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives**

**You lift my burdens; And I rise with You
I'm dancing on this mountain top
To see Your Kingdom come**

**My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives**

*"My Redeemer Lives" written by Reuben Morgan 1998 Hillsong Music Publishing Scripture Reference: 1 John 1:7
CCLI Song: 2397964 CCLI License: 51072*

WORSHIP THEME: "Blessed Without Seeing" John 20:19-31

We are all hard wired to seek proof in this world. We would be kidding ourselves if we said we do not need proof for most everything we hear. It is natural to the way we think and the way we were designed. With this fact in mind, we should not be so quick to put Thomas down or criticize him and his lack of faith based on his demand for proof. Many of us would have been right there with him since we too, want to see. We want to touch. We want to experience it first hand, not through the statements from others. Now we obviously know that we are living many generations and years following the actual resurrection. The reality of the resurrection story lives through us and our witness. It is truly a blessing to have Jesus living in us --- knowing that seeing him physically is impossible and not necessary. We are truly blessed without seeing which makes our faith even more powerful. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

+ We Lift Our Hearts in Worship +

OPENING SONG "Blessed Redeemer"

**Up Calvary's mountain one dreadful morn
Walked Christ my Savior, weary and worn
Facing for sinners death on the cross
That He might save them from endless loss**

**Blessed Redeemer, precious Redeemer
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading
Blind and unheeding, dying for me**

**"Father, forgive them," my Savior prayed
Even while His lifeblood flowed fast away
Praying for sinners while in such woe
No one but Jesus ever loved so**

**Blessed Redeemer, precious Redeemer
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading
Blind and unheeding, dying for me, dying for me**

**Blessed Redeemer, precious Redeemer
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading
Blind and unheeding, dying for me**

**Oh how I love Him, Savior and friend
How can my praises ever find end
Through years unnumbered on Heaven's shore
My songs shall praise Him forevermore**

**Blessed Redeemer, precious Redeemer
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading
Blind and unheeding, dying for me**

**Blessed Redeemer, precious Redeemer
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading
Blind and unheeding, dying for me**

*"Blessed Redeemer" written by Avis B. Christiansen, Harry Dixon Loes © Words: 1921. Renewed 1949 Harry Dixon Loes
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INVOCATION

Pastor: The great news has been made public! Christ is alive and God's light is shining bright now after a period of darkness. We are blessed! Let's celebrate together and proclaim Jesus as Lord!

People: Amen

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Mighty God, Gracious Father, Jesus appeared to the disciples following the resurrection and found them afraid and behind locked doors. He brought a word of peace to calm their fears and give them courage for the mission ahead. One of the twelve disciples, Thomas, desired proof to support belief. He needed to see the mark of the nails and touch Jesus' side before he would believe. We are blessed in our belief without seeing Jesus physically. May others see Jesus in us through our words and actions. In Jesus, You have given us not only an example to live by, but a Savior who forgives sins and brings redemption. Inspire in us the desire to spread this Good News to others. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

People: **In the strong name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Loving God, Your Word is a gift as it brings us strength for living and hope for the future. In the scriptures we read that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves from its grips. Out of love, You sent Jesus to free us from this bondage and give us an abundant life. Through His death and resurrection, we have hope, new life, and eternal life. We do not have to live life behind locked doors – filled with fear, guilt, and hopelessness. We are blessed to have a Savior who has taken all of our sins on the cross.

People: **Merciful God, we confess that we often allow the pressures of living in the world to permeate our minds and influence our hearts. We do not see clearly what Your Will is for our lives because we allow our own selfish will to take precedence. We are deeply sorry and ask for Your forgiveness. Open our eyes to see You and Your perfect will.**

Pastor: When we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins. We are washed and made clean through His redemptive blood. Praise God for His mighty power to heal and restore!

People: **Amen!**

+ We Hear God's Word +

Acts 4:32-35(ESV)(page 5 in bulletin)..... (on page 1697 in NIV pew Bible)
1 John 1:1-2:2(ESV) (page 6 in bulletin)..... (on page 1898 in NIV pew Bible)
John 20:19-31(ESV)(page 6 in bulletin)..... (on page 1686 in NIV pew Bible)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

SERMON SONG *“Man Of Sorrows”*

**Man of sorrows Lamb of God
By His own betrayed
The sin of man and wrath of God
Has been on Jesus laid**

**Silent as He stood accused
Beaten mocked and scorned
Bowing to the Father’s will
He took a crown of thorns**

**Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee**

**Sent of heaven God’s own Son
To purchase and redeem
And reconcile the very ones
Who nailed Him to that tree**

**Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee**

Now my debt is paid
It is paid in full
By the precious blood
That my Jesus spilled
Now the curse of sin
Has no hold on me
Whom the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed

Now my debt is paid
It is paid in full
By the precious blood
That my Jesus spilled
Now the curse of sin
Has no hold on me
Whom the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed

Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee

See the stone is rolled away
Behold the empty tomb
Hallelujah God be praised
He's risen from the grave

Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee
Praise and honour unto Thee

*Man Of Sorrows – Written by Brooke Ligertwood, Matt Crocker © 2012 Hillsong Music Publishing Scripture Reference: Isaiah 53
CCLI Song: 6476063 CCLI License: 51072*

MESSAGE..... “Do You See Jesus?” John 20:19-31 by Rev. Gary Fortkamp

OFFERING SONG..... “Awesome God”

Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns from Heaven above,
With wisdom, power and love,
Our God is an awesome God.

**Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns from Heaven above,
With wisdom, power and love,
Our God is an awesome God.**

**Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns from Heaven above,
With wisdom, power and love,
Our God is an awesome God.**

"Awesome God" written by Rich Mullins © 1988 BMG Songs, Inc. Scripture Reference: Psalm 135:5 CCLI Song: 41099

+ We Pray +

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

† We Celebrate the Lord's Supper †

Here our Lord gives to us His Own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

WE PREPARE

Pastor: Risen Savior, You have overcome death and the grave. You have called us to the table to enjoy Your presence and experience healing and restoration. We have come as frail, imperfect, broken people in need of Your forgiveness and strength for our journey. Thank You for the means of grace given to us in these significant elements we are about to receive. We are grateful that You instructed us to do this in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice. Through Your death and resurrection, we are given the precious gift of eternal life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION SONG *The Wonderful Cross*

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did ever such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown**

**O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name**

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name

*"The Wonderful Cross" written by Chris Tomlin, Isaac Watts, J.D. Walt, Jesse Reeves, Lowell Mason
2000 worshiptogether.com songs CCLI Song: 3148435 CCLI License: 51072*

DISMISSAL BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ assure you of forgiveness,
freedom, and peace in His name.

People: **We thank You Lord, for all You accomplished for our sake.**

+ We Depart in Peace +

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go now in peace knowing Jesus has risen from the grave and has given you
an abundant life.

People: **Amen!**

CLOSING SONG..... "My Savior Lives"

Our God will reign forever
And all the world will know His name
Ev'ryone together
Sing the song of the redeemed

I know that my Redeemer lives
And now I stand on what He did
My Savior my Savior lives
Ev'ry day a brand new chance to say
Jesus You are the only way
My Savior my Savior lives

**The King has come from Heaven
And darkness trembles at His name
Victory forever
Is the song of the redeemed**

**I know that my Redeemer lives
And now I stand on what He did
My Savior my Savior lives
Ev'ry day a brand new chance to say
Jesus You are the only way
My Savior my Savior lives**

**My Savior lives my Savior lives my Savior lives
My Savior lives my Savior lives my Savior lives
My Savior lives my Savior lives my Savior lives
My Savior lives my Savior lives my Savior lives**

**I know that my Redeemer lives
And now I stand on what He did
My Savior my Savior lives
Ev'ry day a brand new chance to say
Jesus You are the only way
My Savior my Savior lives**

**I know that my Redeemer lives
And now I stand on what He did
My Savior my Savior lives
Ev'ry day a brand new chance to say
Jesus You are the only way
My Savior my Savior lives**

"My Savior Lives" written by Jon Egan, Glenn Packlam © 2006 Vertical Worship Songs

Scripture Reference: Job 19:25;1 Corinthians 5:5-9 CCLI Song: 4882965 CCLI License: 51072

We Exit to Serve!

If this service has moved you spiritually and you have questions regarding your spiritual life, please feel free to visit with one of the Pastors after the service.