



WELCOME!

*We are delighted that you chose to worship with us on this glorious Easter morning!*

If you feel led to inquire about becoming a church member or deepening your commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ, please call the church (979.823.8073) or email Pastor Ted Foote ([tfoote@fpcbryan.org](mailto:tfoote@fpcbryan.org)) or Associate Pastor Emily Béghin ([ebeghin@fpcbryan.org](mailto:ebeghin@fpcbryan.org)). They will be glad to visit with you.

The **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS) OFFERING** is being received today. By supporting OGHS, you're sustaining programs that provide disaster relief, food, clean water, training, and resources to people all over the world through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

Here's how to give:

1. DONATE NOW! Using your smartphone, click on the QR Code to your right.
2. Mail payment to First Presbyterian Church. (MEMO: One Great Hour of Sharing Offering)
3. Go to: [www.presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs)



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The submission deadline for the April 21 issue of the newsletter, The Chimes (incl. May Calendar), is Sunday, April 19. This newsletter will be distributed by Wednesday, April 22, and will cover news from April 30 thru May 13. Submit content to: [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org).

For the newsletter, announcements, upcoming bulletins, and updates, visit the church website: [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org)

Stay connected with others in this community of faith at CHURCH UPDATES, FPC-Bryan's online tool for church-related announcements, needs, and prayers.

Login and create your password-protected account at: <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login>.

## THIS WEEK

### WORSHIP NOTES

**PREACHER**  
Rev. Ted Foote

**LITURGIST**  
Rev. Emily K. Béghin  
Rev. Dr. George E. Klett

**FLOWERS**  
Background arrangements  
by  
Nicole & Bill McKinley  
-----  
Easter Lilies  
sponsored by  
our church family  
(See p. 4)

**MUSICIANS**  
Michelle Lassiter, *pianist*  
David Kipp,  
*Director of Music Ministries*

**COVER ART**  
Easter lilies  
in the sanctuary of  
First Presbyterian Church  
Bryan, Texas

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**THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, EASTER, APRIL 12**  
10:45am ONLINE FESTIVAL WORSHIP-  
Viewable at [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org)

**CHILDREN'S CENTER CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**MONDAY, APRIL 13**  
**EASTER HOLIDAY**  
**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 19**  
10:45am ONLINE WORSHIP-  
Viewable at [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org)  
5:45pm Youth (GR 6-12) Sunday Fun Day-  
ZOOM  
6:30pm Session Stated Business  
conducted VIA EMAIL

For regularly scheduled meetings, please be in touch with your group's moderator, leader, coordinator, or facilitator to determine alternate meeting options/platforms.

COVID-19 Church Office Hours  
M-F, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

CCF Carter Creek Foyer P Parlor  
CR Choir Room PT Patio  
FH Fellowship Hall S Sanctuary  
L Library VC Various Classrooms  
N Narthex \* Child Care Provided

## THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD EASTER



APRIL 12, 2020, 10:45 A.M.

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**GATHERING IN THE EARLY MORNING LIGHT**

PRELUDE Low, in the Grave Robert Lowry

EASTER PROCLAMATION  
The Lord is risen! **The Lord is risen indeed!**

HYMN NO. 232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today EASTER HYMN

**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!**

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*Text in bold face type is to be read by all.*

PRAYER OR PRAISE, CONFESSION, AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Let us pray . . . O God, how we fear threats; how we resent loss; how we are reluctant to trust where we cannot see and where we cannot control.

**Forgive us all our sin.** (We pray in silence.)

Even in our grief, reluctance, hesitation, suspicion, and doubt, O Holy One, birth and grow anew within us your life from grace by resurrection power.

**May we risk, through time, being drawn by your Spirit from muted silence to whispered and even full-throated Hallelujahs, reaching out to others as modeled and urged by Jesus Christ, who was dead and yet lives, where logic cannot explain nor science prove. Blessed be your holy name.**

People of God, worshiping in God’s spirit and truth: Experience and realize anew the great proclamation,

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Solely through God’s love, we are ushered into newness of life! . . .**

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 581 Glory Be to the Father GLORIA PATRI

**THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 28:1-10

Let us hear God’s Word, reading from Matthew 28, beginning at v. 1:

<sup>1</sup> After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION Do Not Be Afraid  
This Morning or Any Other:  
God’s Newness of Life in Jesus

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION,  
AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Let us pray . . . We thank you, O Blessed One, that in Jesus of Nazareth, by your Spirit, when death brought life down, life was yet the conqueror; when hatred brought love down, love was yet the conqueror; when evil brought goodness down, goodness was yet the conqueror. We thank you that, from this day, newness of life becomes victorious through your power willing to suffer.

We pray, O Holy One, for all who feel the sting of defeat and emptiness of grief, whose spirits are frustrated, overwhelmed, and lonely. Lift up each one in the strength of your arms. Anoint each one with healing for every wound and scar. Where all are not regarded as being of equal value, bring your equity and justice to life in relationships and through institutions.

As you pledge to transform the deserts in life’s landscapes to blooming vistas in the measure of your time, give us eyes of faith, dispositions of cooperation, and inclinations respectfully to assist one another. May Jesus Christ live in us and through us all the way to death and beyond. Thus, we continually pray with confidence in you, including as Jesus taught:

**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.**

**SENDING**

HYMN This Easter Celebration AURELIA  
(St. 3 & 5)

**Our joy won’t come from worship that’s in a crowded room  
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.  
Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see —  
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.**

**We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be  
a scattered, faithful body that’s doing ministry.  
In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,  
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.**

SPOKEN BENEDICTION adapted from Ephesians 3:20-21

To God, who, by the power at work within us, is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine –

**To the Eternal Source of the mystery of grace be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee HYMN TO JOY

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, all us to rejoice in thee.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began,  
Love divine is reigning o’er us, joining all in heaven’s plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

POSTLUDE Jesus Paid It All arr. Robert Sterling  
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The prayerful support and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family of Anne Beal following her death on April 2.  
“I am the resurrection and the life,” saith the Lord. —John 11:25

**Check out FPC-Bryan’s new Children’s Ministry page!**

<https://www.facebook.com/FPC-Bryan-Childrens-Ministry>

**2020 EASTER LILY SPONSORS**



IN LOVING MEMORY OF ..... GIVEN BY  
Our son, Peter.....Dorothy & Bob Anderson  
Our parents.....Dorothy & Bob Anderson  
My parents, Helen & Otto Krehbiel..... Kathrine MacNeil  
Aileen Smith McDonald ..... Ranney McDonald  
Parents and family..... Ranney McDonald

IN HONOR OF ..... GIVEN BY  
Our Family .....Dorothy & Bob Anderson  
FPC Music Ministry (David Kipp,  
Michelle Lassiter, Ulonda Rogers,  
Andrea Young, Jared Overton..... Kathrine MacNeil

IN CELEBRATION OF OUR RISEN LORD AND SAVIOR AND  
WITH THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH  
Karen & Robin Berg

## **Do Not Be Afraid This Morning or Any Other: God's Newness of Life in Jesus**

Matthew 28:1-10

Ted V. Foote, Jr.

April 12, 2020 (Easter) First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas

In late 1977 or early 1978, my intern supervisor, the Reverend George Kluber, told me the saying: "If the whole world seems to be rushing past you in the opposite direction, they may know something you don't know." He paused and added, "Then again, you may sense something they do not."

On Sunday morning, in Matthew's account of the post-burial story of Jesus, there are initially two sets of characters and a notable geo-physical development. There are (1) the women followers of Jesus who, in their grief, go to the cemetery to pay their respects. There are also (2) the Roman guards posted by the Government to secure the tomb of Jesus' corpse – Jesus, who was crucified by the Empire because the powers-that-be judged Jesus to be a threat to the stability of the Empire. The geo-physical development close to dawn that morning is an earthquake which dislodges the boulder in front of the tomb. A messenger shows up. The cluster-group of Roman guards are frightened into trembling and an inability to speak. The cluster-group of women are noted as being there, but Matthew declines to describe how they felt when the earthquake occurs. Don't we know how any of us can get into trouble putting into words our presumptions of other peoples' feelings? So Matthew avoids doing that.

The messenger ignores the presence of the Empire's soldiers. Remember: They are muted with fear. It could be fear that their superiors will regard them as derelict in their duties, or as having failed in their mission. We definitely can say that the Empire is excluded from this conversation. The messenger speaks to the women followers of Jesus; and although the story-teller never says the women were afraid, the messenger begins like all messengers of God in the stories of Scripture start their messages: "Do not be afraid." Then the messenger says (Allow me, please, to paraphrase): "I know why you are here; and your effort simply to pay your respects to the dead is futile, because Jesus lives anew. The betrayal, the crucifixion, the burial: they are past. Only the present and the future exist as God's new theatre. Your past with Jesus is important, but not as important as your going forward in the way Jesus taught you. So git going, and tell the others: The past is the beginning of the new day, and that's today, and Jesus is still a few steps in front of you on the journey. Now git."

So they depart. Now we hear how the story-teller thinks they were feeling: "With fear and great joy they departed to share this message with the other followers of the once alive and once dead Jesus whose love from God could not be held by a boulder in front of a small cave." Try to put the love of God in a cave with a boulder in front of it. The earth will rumble. The seal will break. The Love will out!

Now the women feel just as the men will feel—that sort of fear which is nervousness about how this unexpected present will work out. The past was full of love. The past was full of heartbreak and soul-shatter. Who wants to go through that again? Might the heartbreak and soul-shatter still occur? Of course, heartbreak and soul-shatter can still occur. Yet God's love embodied in Jesus will break out again, ever creating a way to lead anew.

On their way, the story-teller says, they actually recognize Jesus. Something about this recognition is familiar. Jesus still embodies God's love. God's love is still embodied in the Rabbi who is their leader, their mentor, their Lord; but something about him is different, because as once he often went off from them to pray and then returned to them, now he's going off from them because he has died. That chapter is over. But he is still God's Messenger of Love. So what does he say to them? "Do not be afraid! Go tell the others. Show them how to go back where they work and live and build communities - how they can go back changed every day by love which the dark places of life and earth cannot hold. Even when they fear the present and the future, there need be no fear in the love I embody, which is the love changing you over and over and over again. So git going." And the story-teller says they did.

There's a commercial brand of skin conditioner with an advertisement which begins picturing a woman in her late 20s (I'm guessing) waking up in her bedroom, looking exhausted, and feeling bad, maybe with a slight hangover. The voice-over begins: "Whether it's attending too many after-parties or not drinking enough water, we're all guilty of 'skin-sins.' (This product) will give you brighter, wide-awake skin." I've watched that ad a few times. I'm not certain that to look more awake than she did before she washes her face and applies the product, she did not just drink a cup of coffee. The product ad, however, puts forward the message that the Glucosamine-content of the product increases skin exfoliation and new cell growth, and it might help you move beyond the skin-sins of your young adult, or middle adult, or even older adult life. Or you might try the cup of coffee, drinking more water, and toning down the after-parties.

Those last few days with Jesus and that morning in the cemetery, though, were even more serious than Glucosamine, coffee, or two bottles of water can fix. And you and I and others know those types of days and mornings: They are haunting-and-pressure-type days—of COVID19, and under-employment, and too many bills due and too much stress. People are, therefore, searching and grasping for assistance and hope and meaningfulness. In such times, journalist David Remnick believes: "Misinformation is a sin." It is a sin to create or fabricate a distraction, or a half-truth, or a counterfeit reality.

Here's the connection between The Gospel According to Matthew, chapter 28, and journalist David Remnick on "misinformation." Neither the first messenger that morning nor the presence of Jesus encountered on the trail out of the cemetery gives misinformation. How is Jesus alive? If I tried to tell you how exactly Jesus is alive beyond his death, I might be guilty of the sin of misinformation; and it is a sin to create or fabricate a distraction or a half-truth or a counterfeit reality—UNLESS I told you that neither boulders nor governments, or religions or cultures, or politics or personalities can prevent God's love from starting up again.

Let it be enough for us to remember that God's love embodied in Jesus once and again and again and again is historical and trans-historical. It is inclusive and particular. It is community-creating one person at a time with love which neither a boulder, a government, a religion, a culture, which neither politics nor personalities can prevent from starting up again since New Life from the unseen God is at the heart of it all. And the proof is in those women disciples who went to a cemetery to pay respects a long time ago. They got much more than they bargained for then. And, fortunately, so do you, so do I, and so do all of God's people in our time. If the whole world seems to be rushing past you in the opposite direction, they may know something you don't know. Then again, you may sense something they do not.

Do not be afraid. God's love is starting up again today in you, in others. Git going. Get a cup of coffee if you need it. Put on some Glucosamine if that will help. But git going to share The Love that God has embodied in Jesus for all the world, because That Love lives to make all the difference every day - for you, for others - come what may. That's "Hallelujah" good news! - All honor and glory be to God.