

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

April 19, 2020
10:45 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas
Link to worship videos available at: www.fpcbryan.org

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Be Still My Soul

arr. Melody Bober

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCES

adapted from Psalm 118:24-26a

Let us say again this Sunday what disciples shared with each other
beyond Jesus' burial place only a week ago: The Lord is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed.

HYMN No. 238 (*St. 1 & 2*)

Thine Is the Glory

JUDA MACCABEUS

**¹ 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 graveclothes where thy body lay.**

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

**² 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 hat lost its sting.**

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

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Eternal God, as you guide us beside the still waters and lead us to lie down in green pastures, as you accompany us into every valley and canyon of shadow, uncertainty, grief, and death, as you anoint us for healing with the ointment of your love: receive our praise that we are always yours.

O Author of Life and Love, we acknowledge our waywardness and sin in relation to you, your creation, and your people. Forgive us, we pray, every act, word, and thought which are outside of your expressed faithfulness and your ongoing desire for our lives and witness to you. In these moments of silence, hear our confessions,

May the fountain of your grace, Blessed One, forgive us and continually make new our lives in Jesus Christ, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:13-18, 28-35

Pew Bible, N. T., p. 90

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

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

Resurrection Recognition Transforms Life for Shared Love

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray . . . When we are discouraged, downcast, and exhausted, Holy Sovereign, you lift us up as on eagle's wings; and we thank you. You bring others to us for encouragement, partnership, and care; and we thank you. When we feel at the end of hopefulness and without an ounce of energy within us for persevering, you prompt and strengthen us; and we thank you.

Where there is worry, fear, struggle, or grief, grant us the wherewithal to reach out to one another. Cause your compassion to come to life among one and all, and your vision for communities of shared well-being to come to life among younger and older, rural and urban, people of every creed and ethnicity. For we offer ourselves in your service, by the power of your spirit known fully in Jesus Christ, who long ago taught disciples to pray.

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.

HYMN NO. 726 (St. 1, 4, & 5)

Will You Come and Follow Me?

KELVINGROVE

¹ **"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?**

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

² **"Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?**

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

**Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"**

³ **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name,**

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where you love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

HYMN NO. 838 (St. 1, 2, & 4)

Standing on the Promises

PROMISES

¹ **Standing on the promises of Christ my king, through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.**

REFRAIN **S-t-a-n-d-i-n-g (standing on the promises),
s-t-a-n-d-i-n-g (standing on the promises),
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
s-t-a-n-d-i-n-g (standing on the promises),
s-t-a-n-d-i-n-g (standing on the promises),
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

² **Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.** REFRAIN

⁴ **Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God.** REFRAIN

POSTLUDE

Victory in Jesus

arr. Melody Bober

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The prayerful support and sympathy of the congregation are extended to Diane Mora-Boellstorff and Miguel Mora and their family following the death of Diane's father, James Boellstorff, on April 8.

"I am the resurrection and the life," saith the Lord. —John 11:25

Especially in this time, visit the church website, www.fpcbryan.org, for the newsletter, announcements, worship bulletins, devotionals for children and adults, updates, etc.

Our newsletter, **The Chimes**, will continue to be available online, emailed to FPC-Bryan friends, and mailed to local FPC-Bryan members with the printed bulletin and sermon to those without technology. Until further notice, it will not be mailed to its full distribution list. The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **NOON, SUNDAY, APRIL 19**, and will be distributed on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**.

This newsletter will cover news from April 30 to May 13.

STAY CONNECTED! with others in this community of faith at Church Updates—FPC-Bryan's online tool for church-related announcements, ways to serve, and current prayer needs. This online tool is "**REAL TIME**," and users receive a weekly reminder email on Thursdays to view new posts.

Login and create your password-protected account at <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login>. For more information, contact Karen in the church office, 979.823.8073 or office@fpcbryan.org.



A WARM WELCOME!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today.

WORSHIP NOTES

PREACHER

Rev. Ted Foote

LITURGIST

Rev. Emily K. Béghin

MUSICIANS

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

COVER ART

"The Supper at Emmaus"
Rembrandt, 1629

AUDIO/VIDEO

Emily K. Béghin

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Glory to God:
The Presbyterian Hymnal
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THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 19

10:45am ONLINE WORSHIP-

To view, visit www.fpcbryan.org

5:45pm Youth (GR 6-12) Sunday Funday-DIGITAL

(Watch your inbox for details via email!)

MONDAY, APRIL 20

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 26

10:45am ONLINE WORSHIP-

To view, visit www.fpcbryan.org

5:45pm Youth (GR 6-12) Sunday Funday-DIGITAL

(Watch your inbox for details via email!)



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

Resurrection Recognition Transforms Life for Shared Love

Luke 24:13-18,28-35

April 19, 2020

Ted V. Foote, Jr.

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas

In May or June of 1962, my parents and their three children piled into our 1956 model, light-green Buick and drove 35 miles to Waco to see the John Ford directed movie, “The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence.” The story is told in flashback, beginning from a train ride west from Washington, D.C., to the small town of Shinbone in an unnamed Great Plains or Western state, and concluding on the train ride back east. Senator Rance Stoddard (played by James Stewart) is traveling to the funeral of Western rancher Tom Doniphon (played by John Wayne). Twenty-five years have passed since Stoddard arrived by stagecoach in Shinbone, which was terrorized by the outlaw Liberty Valence (played by Lee Marvin). As the story is told, the audience realizes how most of the population for the past 25 years has thought that now-Senator Stoddard is the one who killed Liberty Valence in a gunfight. The more-complicated truth, which rancher Doniphon tells attorney Stoddard after Valence was shot and died, is that he (Tom Doniphon) fired the fatal shot with a Winchester rifle from an alley slightly behind where Stoddard stood in the street. Doniphon insists that Stoddard live with the general population thinking he (Stoddard) was the hero. Rancher Doniphon – for several reasons – did not want the credit. So 25 years later, when Tom Doniphon dies, Senator Stoddard travels by train two-thirds of the way across the continent to pay his respects.

That movie went through my mind in early February 2018 when I flew from Austin to Burbank, California, and then rode an Amtrak train from Burbank to Santa Barbara for the memorial service of Tom Schmid, with whom I had worked as associate pastor in San Antonio where he was pastor and head-of-staff thirty-five years earlier. (Some of you may well be saying to yourself, “Foote, that’s the closest you’ll ever be to the life of Jimmy Stewart: riding on a train part-way to a funeral, and he was a character in a movie!) Unlike Stoddard and Doniphon in the 1962 John Ford movie, Tom Schmid and I, from 1979 to 1983, were actually involved in zero gunfights with outlaws. We freed San Antonio from not a single terrorist. And neither of us was elected to the United States’ Senate based on the reputation of out-scheming opponents. But, sometimes, aren’t our relationships so rich and textured, so formative and character-shaping that we travel many miles to pay respects, to honor gifts received and shared from others, perhaps years in the past? We don’t always travel, of course. Sometimes letters are sent, or emails, or an entry is made on a funeral home Legacy.com site, or a memorial donation is sent. In many such instances, however, a hollow feeling exists within. And, often, isn’t the hollow place we feel lined with God’s grace?

I’ve said a couple of times since February 2018 that my friend and mentor Tom was so drawn to the theology of Jesus’ Resurrection that the preacher during that Santa Barbara church service described him as “a man of the Resurrection.” On the Sunday following Easter, if Tom preached from the Emmaeus road encounter and supper, he more than once referred to the artistry of Rembrandt van Rijn. Rembrandt painted the 1628 “Supper at Emmaeus” when he was 22 years old. 22 years old. In this work, one of the Jerusalem-to-Emmaeus disciples (in the foreground shadow) – upon recognizing Jesus – has thrown himself out of his chair onto bended knee in front of Jesus. The shadow is so prominent that this “foreground disciple” of the two can hardly be seen in the painting. The other disciple, however, is clearly lit from the light surrounding Jesus’ profile in silhouette. And the still-seated disciple’s eyes are wide-open in stunned surprise when he recognizes the stranger across the table as Jesus.

I don't remember anything precisely Tom said to me about this 1628 painting, but I know my reaction today. I ask myself, "Would I more likely be the disciple who falls on bended knee if I recognized Jesus? Or would I more likely be the one frozen for a moment, eyes-wide-open, seemingly saying to himself, if not out-loud, what the television character whom actor Jim Nabors played – Gomer Pyle – exclaimed, "Shazaaaam!" Whether on your knees or still seated in your chair at an angle from the one you have recognized in the breaking of the bread, you are there. Whether you recognize God's love showing up again and you essentially say on-bended-knee, "My Lord, I so wanted you to be somehow alive beyond the grave," or whether you recognize God's love showing up again, and you essentially say from your seat at the table, "I can't believe my sometimes lying eyes! There's something here in you, Jesus, that death could not hold!" Whomever of the two you think more closely resembles your personality-profile or spirituality-perspective, you are in the painting and in this story.

Moving from Rembrandt's characters in this painting to the painter himself, at the age of 22, Rembrandt barely shines light on one disciple who falls to bended knee in the foreground, and he fully shines light on one whose eyes pop widely open when Jesus is recognized. Rembrandt painted an Emmaeus supper canvas at least one other time twenty years later. The 1648 version is quite different from the one of 1628; and he produced two different etchings. The Emmaeus subject was on his mind at least twenty years. But Rembrandt's life extended to the age of 63. His body of work was extraordinary and is recognized today as top-of-the-line. Yet his life was as routine as yours or mine. He needed work to make rent. He needed relationships for piecing together contacts and contracts. He experienced a broken heart and a broken mortal life. In the 20 months from February 1668 to September 1669, he received the good news that his son and fiancé would marry, in 5 months they were expecting a baby. Then his son died of the plague. The healthy baby was born. Then the baby's mother died of the plague. Then Rembrandt himself died, possibly of the plague. All within a year and eight months.

So what is your or my close association or point of contact with the great painter, if any? As we said last week, not a boulder-sealed burial cave or an Empire, no power of evil or masquerade of pleasure can hold back the out-breaking, emergent power and transforming influence of God's love. For Rembrandt, when he was 22 years old, there is an eye-popping moment of recognition. Not every moment, though, in our several years is eye-popping with faith and sensing God's presence in this Jesus. Many more are the mundane moments. Many more are experiences with what is humorous, with what's fun, with what's fulfilling, with what's difficult, challenging, agonizing. And time and again comes round change, or comes round even death – for strangers, for acquaintances, for those we love, even for each of us.

And through our lives, whether we are kneeling, head-bowed disciples or sitting-up, leaning-forward-with-eyes-popped-open disciples, whether we are mentors or mentees, those who gave needed help or those who received needed help, we are invited to share time and hurt and joy with others, by way of God's love in Jesus that nothing can repress. Remember: even the emptiness we feel within is lined with grace! Whether we travel by walking, by car, aircraft, rail, by horse, donkey, mule, camel, llama, or elephant, we travel through life with family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, strangers, rivals, enemies, but always this person and spirit of Jesus, this embodiment of God's love, finds a way to show up here and there, again and again, claiming us. Our recognition of Jesus-yet-among-us changes our lives for the sharing of love and serving with others in all of our days; and how amazing and even surprising our encounter with that Reality can be. – All honor and praise be to God.