

Worship Guide for First Baptist Church on Fifth

Sunday, April 12, 2020 + Winston-Salem, NC
Easter Sunday



Arisen (Mary Magdalene) | Hannah Garrity

This Worship Guide is for you: for the worship of God today, for words and practices and images to sustain you through the week, for engagement with your families and communities, for hope in even the deepest places of despair.

On this Easter Sunday, may our Alleluias rise as we proclaim the good news:
"He is not here: for he has been raised."

May these songs we sing, the scriptures we read, the practices we engage, the prayers we offer all be pleasing to God -- today and all the week ahead!
Blessings on your worship, beloved community!

Invitation to Worship

Welcome to worship with First on Fifth on this Easter morning!

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Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

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Call to Worship

Jesus Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

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Hymn: *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath 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!

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Passing the Peace

Turn to those around you -- other people in your house, your pets, your neighbors outside, your friends online -- and share these words:

May the peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!

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Artwork above

The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Sepulchre on the Morning of the Resurrection
Eugène Burnand

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New Testament Reading
Acts 10:34-43

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Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Written by our own Rev. Mary Kaylor

Prayer of Confession

- One: Risen Christ, we are filled with joy as we approach the empty tomb just as the women did many years ago. Our spirits are singing your praises and our lips wish to tell of this good news. But we also approach with suspicious steps and hesitant belief.
- Many: We hear the call, "Do not be afraid," and we try to put on our bravest faces but there is so much to fear.
- One: Today we find ourselves in the midst of restrictions and regulations due the continued spread of a virus. Instead of our traditional gathering together to celebrate the resurrected one, we find ourselves scattered, in our separate homes, celebrating in our separate ways.
- Many: We find ourselves holding tight to our anxieties and anger. We are hearing the voices that tell us there is little hope to be found and we start to believe they might be true. Our voices shake with uncertainty as we attempt to speak of the hope we do see. We struggle to see the end of this exile.
- One: Compassionate God, to you these are familiar feelings. They are the same feelings of dread and uncertainty you felt in the garden as you prayed for this cup to be taken from you. But, let us not forget, from the darkness your son Jesus arose and spoke words of hope, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my [followers] to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Matthew 28:10)
- Many: Help us to see past our fears and anxieties to the presence of your Spirit that surrounds us. May our anxieties and anger dissipate. May our voices loudly speak words of praise and hope. May we behold your light shining in the darkness.

Words of Assurance

- One: Just as Peter spoke these words to the disciples so long ago, he speaks them to us today, "You know the message [God] sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ...the prophets testify...that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through [Jesus'] name." (Acts 10:36; 43)
- Many: Thanks be to God!

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Prayers for the People & The Lord's Prayer

We give thanks for our fellow members who are leading in today'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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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Homily

This is My Body: Witness

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Artwork to the right

Resurrection

© 2016 P. Solomon Raj | Eyekons

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Hymn: *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

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Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below!
Praise God above ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen.

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Benediction | *Hallelujah!*



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ON FIFTH