

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Conference (Meeting ID: 834 854 376 Password: GPBC)

Easter Sunday • April 4, 2021 • 9:00 AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sheryl Johnson

PRELUDE

“Easter Celebration Medley”

arr. Lanier

Pianist: Fred Horn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kelly Schmitt

One: We enter a virtual gathering space once again this season.

All: We worship together in spirit and in truth, though not in person.

One: We pray, sing, and listen to God’s Word despite the fear that pervades our community.

All: We trust Christ’s peace, a peace given freely, despite our doubts and fears.

One: We know the Holy Spirit is among us, blowing with a hopeful wind of change.

All: We feel the presence of Christ, the one who died and rose again, and brings us eternal life.

One: We submit to God’s leading in this time of transformation.

All: We experience the joy of Easter morning when we celebrate all God has in store for us.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

If you have a candle, light it now.

One: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

All: Christ is our light.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

“This Easter Celebration”

AURELIA

**This Easter celebration is not like ones we’ve known.
We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.
We’re distant from our neighbors, from worship leaders, too.
No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.**

**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.**

**No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.
O God of love and promise, where’s joy this Easter Day?
With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place
we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.**

**In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:
Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.
Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!
Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.**

**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.**

LITANY OF ADORATION

Raymond Cady, Dixie Leathers, Gordon Leathers

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Lord, bring new life, where we are worn and tired;
new love, where we have turned hard-hearted;
forgiveness, where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: To all and to each, on his community and on his friends, where regret is real, Jesus pronounces his pardon and grants us the right to begin again.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sandy Rogers

SCRIPTURE

Mark 16:1-8

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Hallelujah” from Christ on the Mount of Olives
Atlanta Symphony Chorus and Orchestra

Beethoven

Hallelujah! unto God’s Almighty Son.
Praise the Lord, ye bright angelic choirs, in holy songs of joy.
Man, proclaim His grace and glory!
Hallelujah! unto God’s Almighty Son.
Praise the Lord in holy songs of joy.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:19-20

HOMILY

“The Day After”

Mark Biddle

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Eric Johnson

THE LORD’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 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.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Sandra Hack Polaski

HYMN

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels 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!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O Death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia!
Where’s thy victory, O grave? 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! Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Paul Irwin

One: My sisters and brothers and siblings, today we have celebrated the glorious Mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection.

All: Let us go forth, rejoicing in the knowledge that Jesus is alive. Alleluia!

One: Today, we look to the future - to the new dawn of Eastertide.

All: Let us go to live as people bathed in the light of resurrection. Alleluia!

One: Today, we remember the day when creation was made new, when God showed humanity its destiny.

All: Let us go as people living in the knowledge that through the triumph of Jesus over death the gates of heaven are re-opened. Alleluia!

RESOURCES USED:

The Call to Worship was written by Rev. Dr. Libby Mae Grammer, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Martinsville.

The opening Hymn “This Easter Celebration” is © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Litany of Adoration, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Pardon come from an Easter prayer, “Lord God, Early in the Morning,” from *Stages on the Way* by John L. Bell and Wild Goose Worship Group © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Scripture reading is an Australian idiomatic paraphrase provided by Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources (<https://staging.laughingbird.net/>) South Yarra Community Baptist Church, Melbourne, Australia.

The Benediction comes from the Wellspring Liturgies website (<http://www.wellsprings.org.uk>).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKEND BACKPACK MINISTRY UPDATE FROM DIXIE

We just keep on packing...don't we! Good news...We will continue to stuff, shop, pack and deliver weekend bags of food to 30 students thru June of this year! More good news...looking at the amount of \$\$\$\$ in the designated fund, and estimating the amount of \$\$\$\$ it will take to finish out the school years packing bags of food....drum roll...we should have \$19,500 left in the designated fund to provide food for 30 students in the 2021-2022 school year! Our goal is to feed 36 students...so...we need to raise only \$4,000 to meet our goal! Can you help? Can you tell others about what we do here at GPBC? Watch this space as donations come in!! And, a BIG thank you for those who have made donations...those who are donating on a weekly basis and of course, a thank you to those helping in the legwork. It does take a village...I am happy to be a part of the GPBC village!

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Board of Managers is calling a special business meeting for April 11 via Zoom immediately following the Sunday morning worship service. The subject is their deliberations regarding changing the church's financial advisor and their selection of Everence to manage the church investments. Prior to the meeting, the Board will provide additional details about Everence and why they feel they are the best choice to help Ginter Park Baptist access socially responsible, faith-rooted investing options.

Instructions for Zoom

To participate by **computer**, **smartphone**, or **iPad**, which provide the *option* of sharing video, use the following link: [GPBC Sunday Worship](#). The service will **begin at 9:00 am** and the meeting **room will open by 8:45 am**. Note: If this is your first time using Zoom, that is amazing! Also, know that you will be prompted to download software or an app. (The phone or iPad app is called Zoom Cloud Meetings if you want to download it first.)

Note: you do not need to sign in or create a Zoom account to join a meeting.

To join by **telephone** for audio *only*, dial 1 (301) 715-8592 and enter Meeting ID 834 854 376 when prompted. Note: This works for both landlines and cellular phones.

If you already have Zoom on your device, you can also launch the app, click "Join a Meeting," and then input the Meeting ID 834 854 376 and Password GPBC when prompted.

For **smartphone**, **iPad**, and **computer** users, we recommend that you try the link above in advance of joining Sunday's service to leave time to download the necessary software and to adjust your personal settings.

If you have any trouble with connecting via computer or smartphone on Sunday and don't have time to troubleshoot, calling in by phone is a great backup plan and can be done quickly.