**Central Baptist Church**

**Sunday March 31, 2024**

**Easter Sunday**

A cross on a hill

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**”I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.” ~Psalms‬**

*On Easter Morn*

**Welcome/Announcements**

\***Hymn** *Thine is the Glory* No. 227

**Call to Worship**

One: We gather in the presence of God’s love to celebrate the best love story ever told.

***All: The Holy Story of the Risen Christ!***

One: A story of the Risen Christ who came as a sacrificial lamb to heal a hurting world.

***All: The Divine sign of God’s love and grace.***

One: The story of three women who rose early to care for Jesus’ body in the tomb.

***All: An act to honor God’s loving presence sent to be among us.***

One: These women arrived and saw an empty tomb; they were shocked and afraid.

***All: They remembered the symbol of human shame of the old rugged cross.***

One: But the story did not end with the crucified Jesus. An Angel of God appeared in

the empty tomb, and their terror transformed into amazement.

***All:*** ***God’s love had once again been revealed.***

One: The journey of the three women continued; they were asked to go out and spread

the Good News of God’s love, peace, and justice found in the Risen Christ!

***All: Today, we receive this Good News; Christ is Risen. He is Risen as He said!***

**Unison Prayer of Invocation  
Resurrecting God, Strengthen in us the will to go out, sharing your Good News of God’s redeeming love. Guide us in telling the story of your endless love through our words and deeds. Remind us of your presence. Fill our hearts with your ways of love that bring about peace and justice for all. With your loving embrace, protect us in the face of terror and hateful actions. Bring us your hope found in the excitement of eternal life and saving love exemplified in Jesus, the Risen Christ! Amen.**

\***Gloria Patri** No. 623

***Glory be the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.***

**Anthem** *Acclamation for Easter*

 **Children’s Message**

**Sharing of Joys & Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer & 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 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.***

**Offering & Offertory**

**Friendship Forms**

Please pass the friendship pad in your pew to each person to sign. If you would like to be contacted by someone in the congregation, please leave a note with an e-mail or phone number.

\***Doxology** No. 625

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**  
Redeeming God, We recognize that your love for all creation is great and unmovable. All that we need on earth has been provided, and yet we struggle to share a portion of our blessings so that all might have enough. You have created an earth vast with land and sea. And yet, we embrace a narrative of scarcity. Believing that somehow there is not enough for everyone to be cared for. But the data proves otherwise. We know there is an overwhelming abundance of resources on the earth you created. Help us to choose a narrative of abundance over scarcity. Give us the strength to help make this world a better place by embracing your agape love of equality for all creation. Let your ancient story of love be our new, innovative, and transformative story of love. The kind of love that transforms hearts, O God, and leads us towards this new way of living. May this new life speak to the kind of prosperity that overflows with your love of peace and justice for all people, everywhere!



**Scripture**  **Mark 16:1-8**

**Sermon** *He is Going Before You*

\***Hymn** *Because He Lives* No. 213

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

\*Please stand if you are able