

Resurrection Sunday

8:45 a.m. + April 9, 2023



He Qi, Do Not Hold on to Me

Jesus, in the plan of God, has opened the way to the highest states of consciousness. The Garden of Eden is both a memory of what could be and a preview of what is to come. In the Garden of the Resurrection the full revelation of the mystery of Christ is unveiled. And with that knowledge and experience, Mary reaches the third level of Contemplative prayer, the abiding state of divine union, which is to see God giving himself in everything. This is the transformed consciousness of inner resurrection. And this is the Good News she was sent to announce to the apostles....

The Garden of Eden stands for a state of consciousness, not a geographical location. She is sent out of the garden, but with the abiding interior state the garden represents: the certitude of being loved by God, of loving him in return, and of God giving himself in every event and at every moment, both within and without. In this state, outside and inside are in harmony; they have become one. In the course of this conversation, the Ultimate Mystery becomes for Mary the Ultimate Presence, and the Ultimate Presence becomes the Ultimate Reality.

Thomas Keating

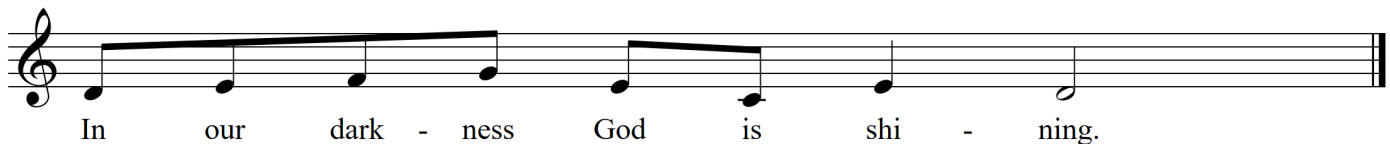
Remembering

John 20:1

Now on the first day of the week Mary the Magdalene came early when it was yet dark, into the tomb – the place of remembrance – and saw that the stone had been taken away from the place of remembrance.

Awakening to the Light

“Vigil”



We Sing Our Joyous Praise

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus 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 has opened paradise, Alleluia!*

Meditation

Song of Response

“Meet Us in the Darkness”

*Meet us in the darkness where we wait for You.
Empty us of everything that is not true.
Laying down what we desire,
We seek the truth beyond the fire.
So meet us in the darkness where we wait for You.*

The Story Continues

from John 20:11-18

*Mary stood at the tomb – the place of remembrance – weeping outside.
As she was weeping, she stooped down into the place of remembrance.*

And she saw two angels in white, sitting – one at the head and one at the feet – where the body of Jesus had lain. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have borne him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

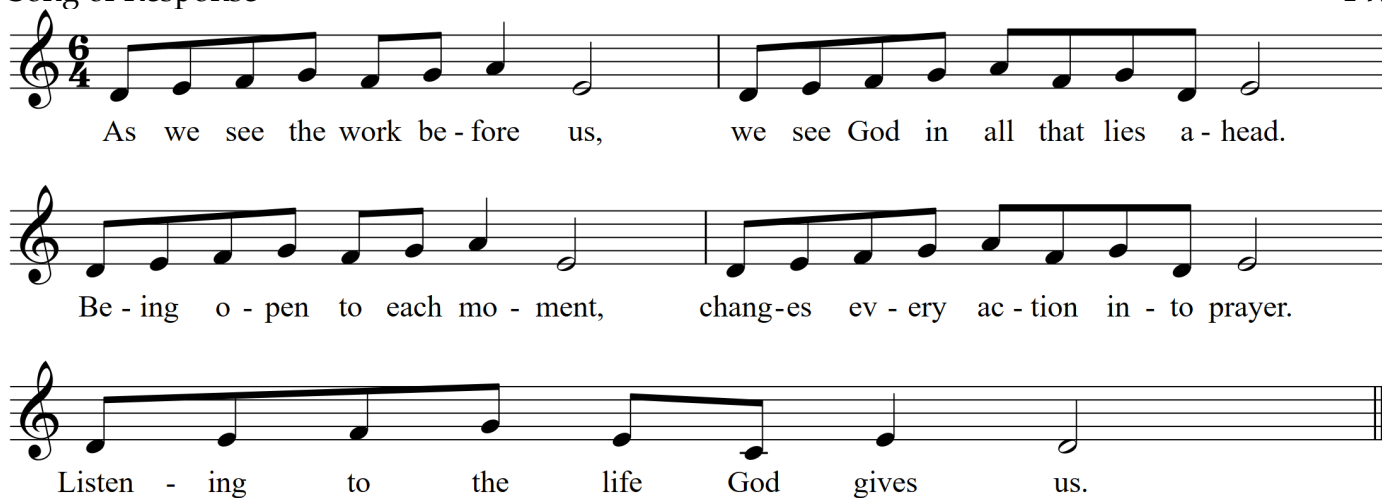
Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means, "My Teacher"). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary the Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,
"I have beheld the Lord" – and that he had said these things to her.

Meditation

Song of Response

"Prime"



As we see the work be - fore us, we see God in all that lies a - head.
Be - ing o - pen to each mo - ment, chang - es ev - ery ac - tion in - to prayer.
Listen - ing to the life God gives us.

Intercessions with Sung Response

"Because He Lives"

When we are trapped in that which is lifeless, give us eyes to see your life open up before us. . . .

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.

We remember people around us who struggle. Give them courage to step toward the life you offer. . . .

Because He lives, all fear is gone.

Where fear of death rules in troubled places around the world, send your life and light. . . .

Because I know He holds the future.

Open wide tombs of hatred, isolation, and division; and raise us to oneness with you and each other. . . .

And life is worth the living just because He lives.

Silence as the Prayer of Remembrance

Contemplative Prayer is sometimes called the Prayer of Remembrance. We begin by entering our own body, our own place of remembrance. We remember that we are embodied and we sense our own body here and now. We enter our own "cave" of the heart by "stooping down" in humility, with our attention directed towards our heart. From this place, we breathe deeply and pray. If it helps, use a sacred word to help you descend into this silence (such as Beloved, Teacher, Mercy, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit) or a breath prayer, such as "Lord" (*inhale*) "have mercy" (*exhale*). If a thought, feeling, or sensation tries to take you away from this interior place, don't "cling" to it – simply and gently let it go by returning to your sacred word or breath prayer. In this way, we seek to "behold" the Sacred.

Holy Communion

adapted from 1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Dear brothers and sisters, we have heard the Good News about Jesus the Christ, written in the holy Gospels and spoken into our lives by the Holy Spirit.

We believe what we have heard, that Christ is alive among us.

We have passed on to you what is most important: Jesus the Christ died for our sins, bringing healing for our wounded souls and life to our fragile bodies. By his death, death has been overcome and the sickness of sin no longer enslaves us. In former times, many women and men testified to his empty grave, and many others witnessed him alive in their world.

***We, too, have seen Christ alive in our world.
We, too, experience his life in us and among us.***

Whether we know it or not, we have each seen the risen Christ. Perhaps when we have least expected it, God has accessed our hearts and opened us to the presence of the Beloved One as an act of grace.

By the grace of God, I am who I am, and God's grace to me has not been empty.

We come to this Table today to receive Christ and live more fully into him. In this meal the living Christ comes to us as an act of mercy and grace. And so we remember. . .

Through the love he showed in the sacrifice of himself, we too are empowered to be agents of love and reconciliation. Through the power he showed in his rising from death, we too are raised to walk in New Life.

***Living Christ, we receive you into ourselves as we take this meal together in your Name.
Raise us to walk in New Life. Amen.***

We Sing Our Joyous Praise

***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!***

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Receiving a Good Word



Saints & Pilgrims: A Pilgrimage along the Coast of East England

October 16 – 27, 2023

Journey in the footsteps of medieval British saints and pilgrims along the eastern coast of England. There are three primary anchor pilgrimage sites and saints: Julian of Norwich, Hilda of Whitby, and Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. Along the way we will also visit the Shrine of Our Lady in the town of Walsingham (which was a major pilgrimage site in the medieval period); Rievaulx Abbey, home of St. Aelred; and Durham Cathedral. We conclude our pilgrimage in Edinburgh. This contemplative pilgrimage will be an opportunity to deepen your spirituality through exploring the literary texts as well as the historical contexts of these great British saints of medieval Christianity. To reserve a spot please see Michael or Peter for a Registration Form, the deposit is \$300. For more information go to www.thecenterfcs.org/pilgrimage

Our Staff

Haley Brown – Ministry Assistant & Director of gastrochurch
Peter Johns – Associate Director

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Michael Sciretti, Jr. – Pastor of The Center

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.
If you are worshipping online, please text the word **center** to (844) 474-0707
If you are worshipping in person, please text the word **chapel** to (844) 474-0707*

For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit: www.TheCenterFCS.org.