

Celebration of Worship

April 24, 2011 – 11:00 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY

We enter to worship;

we depart to serve

Easter doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's *Messiah* sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death. What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who, like Magdalen, will never stop searching it till they find his face.

Fredrick Buechner

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude "Prelude No. 1" Felix Mendelssohn

Announcements
(Please sign and pass the friendship pads at this time.)

Opening Hymn 343

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service" (Vs. 2)

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people,
young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.**

Welcome and Silent Meditation

Invocation

Mr. Tyler Carter

◆ Call to Worship

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Thanks be to God who gives us this victory!

Glory and honor, dominion and power, be to God, forever and ever.

Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!

◆ Hymn 104 "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

◆ Prayer of the Day

**God of life, hear our prayers of praise
and our exultation in the victory of Christ over death**

Help us this resurrection morning

to live in the joy that we shall not die,

but live to proclaim your wonderful works forever.

Risen Christ, send us also from east to west

and from north to south,

in whatever direction pleases you,

with voices filled with the joy of faith

and the message of eternal salvation from your cross and empty tomb, that others may share our Easter surprise

and not be afraid of death. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Children's Moment Pastor Dan
(Children's Church is available for 4 yrs. through kindergarten.)

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for Mission One Great Hour of Sharing

Morning Offering

Offertory

◆ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

◆ Prayer of Dedication

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Easter Cantata "Come, Touch the Robe" Pepper Choplin

"Come, Touch the Robe"

"Shine On, Great Savior"

"Hosanna in the Streets"

"Wash Their Feet"

"King of Suffering"

"Soldiers of the Cross"

"O Death, Where Is Your Sting?"

"Worthy Is the Lamb"

Choir Members

Soprano

Margie Neff

Dotty Drymon

Pam Walker

Jeanie Kvach

Alexis Milford-Rosales

Ailene Polanski

Samantha Mayhugh

Alto

Steffeny Palk

Amy Carter

Dorothy Bartley

Pamela Canto

Robin Mayhugh

Rhonda Duncan

Bass

Mark Griffis

Bill Stuckert

Butch Bauer

Andy Duncan

Tenor

John Bright

Brian Legg

Reader

Dan Milford

Choir Director

Doug Ruffner

Pianist

Amanda Teachnor

Hymn 108 "Christ is Alive!"

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

◆ Benediction

◆ Congregational Response Hymn 84

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (Vs.1)

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;

All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

Postlude "Grave and Allegro" Josef Rheinberger
from the Fantasy Sonata

◆ (Indicates appropriate place for congregation to stand)

PRAYER LIST—NEW CONCERNS

Chris Gibson (friend of the Rains)—Breast cancer surgery
 Willy Carnahan—Congestive heart failure & dialysis
 Wanda Hankins—Fallen several times
 Deborah (Sharon Bolton’s niece)—In ICU after surgery
 Vicki Bonham (Austin Bare’s grandmother)—Hospitalized with pneumonia
 Betty Cotner—Recovering from back surgery
 Wes Ritchie (Christie Cannon’s relative)—Tumor on lung
 Debbie Thomas (Pam Smithey’s sister)—Bicycle accident
 Nicole Smith (Pam Smithey’s daughter)—Hysterectomy
 Sarah Brigham (Pam Smithey’s friend’s daughter)—Seizures
 Leola Hall—Bypass surgery
 Robin Mayhugh—Health concerns
 Roberta Nye (Soozie Fahland’s friend)—Chemo treatments

(Please refer to newsletter for Ongoing Concerns and Homebound Members.)

OUR MINISTRY AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 24 **Easter Sunday**
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Monday, April 25
 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting
 7:00 p.m. AA Open Meeting & Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, April 27
 5:30 p.m. Dinner
 6:00 p.m. Pre-K & Children’s Choirs
 Jr. High Bible Study
 Women’s Bible Study
 Men’s Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice
 Sr. High Bible Study

Thursday, April 28
 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting
 8:00 p.m. AA Closed Meeting

Sunday, May 1
 9:30 a.m. Morning Fellowship
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 12:00 Noon Reception for the Milford-Rosales family

THOSE WHO SERVE

Greeter: Becky Hunt
 Ushers: Craig Hunt, Captain; Tyler Hunt
 Ryan Hunt, Kylee Hunt, Cody Shelton
 Liturgist: Tyler Carter
 Trustee Lock-Up: Len Gardner
 Sunday School Superintendent: Jean Smith



NEWS AND SUCH

One Great Hour of Sharing—“Gift by gift, brick by brick, we are helping to build communities devastated by war, poverty and natural disaster.” We will receive this special offering again this morning during the Offertory.

Easter Lilies—The Board of Deacons would like to thank everyone who purchased lilies this year. If you purchased a plant, feel free to take one with you after this morning’s service. Remaining plants will be delivered to shut-ins.

Session Meeting—The Session will meet tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m.

Deacons’ April Showers—The Deacons continue to collect items such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other personal hygiene products during the remainder of April for Sand Springs Community Services. A collection box is located in the Narthex.

Farewell Reception—Our “Farewell Reception” for Dan and his family will be next Sunday, May 1st, at 12:00 Noon, following worship in the Fellowship Hall. A light lunch of sandwiches, cookies and cake are being provided by volunteers. The congregation is asked to provide fruit platters and side salads. We will be welcoming the Sand Springs community and expect many guests as we thank these dear friends for their service to the Lord through our church, and wish them well in the ministry in San Antonio.

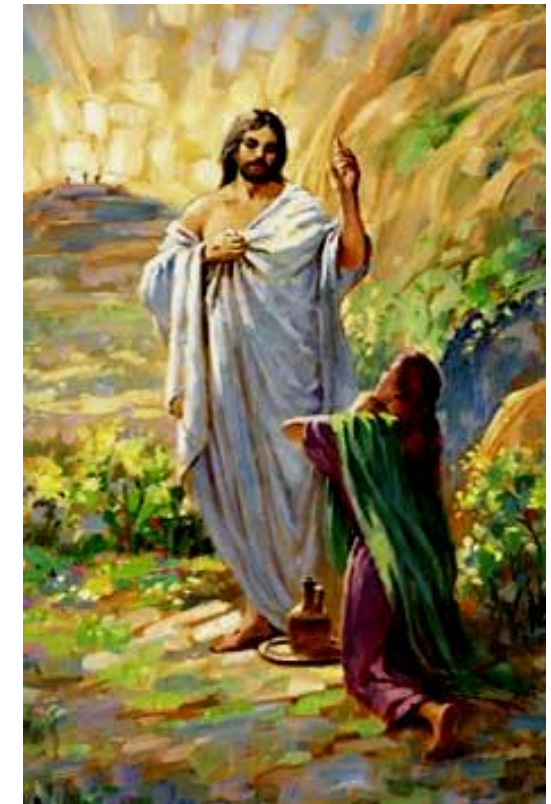


Sermon on the Amount—
 Needed for Apr.: \$16,385.42 Budgeted YTD: \$60,500.00
 Received in Apr.: 11,712.86 Received YTD: 55,577.96
 Difference: (\$ 4,672.56) Difference: (\$ 4,922.04)

OUR STAFF

Dan Milford—Pastor
 Willa Barnes—Secretary
 Bill Zahringer—Director of Youth Ministries
 Doug Ruffner—Director of Music
 Amanda Teachnor—Organist and Accompanist
 Gail Reed—Treasurer
 Kyla Rice—Children’s Church Teacher

He is risen!



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH**
 Sand Springs, Oklahoma