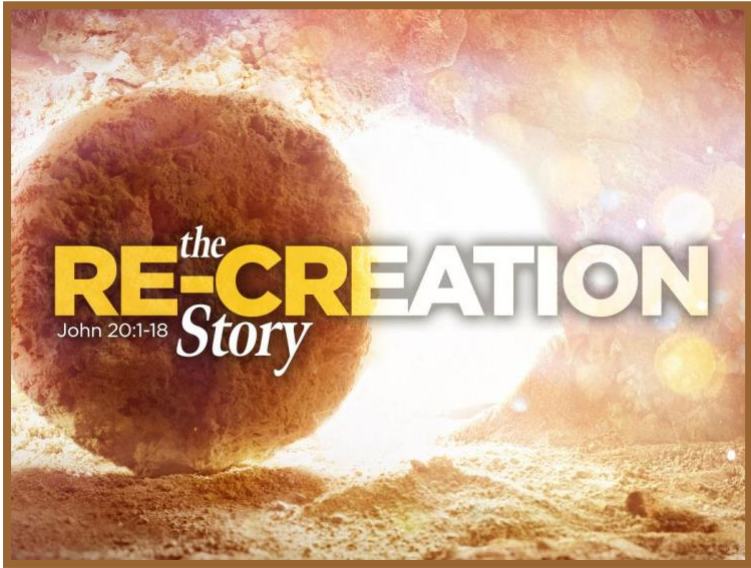




“A Lighthouse Guiding  
People to Christ”



Letting Go: The Recreation Story

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

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PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

WELCOMING OF GUESTS

Pastor

PASSING THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

(Inspired by John 20: 1-18)

*Liturgist: The stone has been rolled away.*

**Congregation: The grave clothes are lying in a heap.**

*Liturgist: The body is gone.*

**Congregation: Mary's weeping is halted by the man's questions:**

*Liturgist: Why are you crying?*

**Congregation: Who is it you are looking for?**

*Liturgist: Let us proclaim with Mary:*

**Congregation: We have seen the risen Lord!**

*Liturgist: Christ is Risen!*

**Congregation: Christ is Risen Indeed!**

***All: Hallelujah! Amen.***

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* (v. 1-6)

UMH #302

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Apostle's Creed

Liturgist

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by  
the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day  
he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the  
right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to  
judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy

catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*GLORIA PATRI  
screen

See

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 1:1-2 (NKJV)

Liturgist *\*Please stand as you are able*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

We praise you, Jesus, for surprising those at the empty tomb and us by defeating death just as you said you would. We thank you for bringing forgiveness and eternal life to all of us. Remind each of us to take three seconds (1,2,3 . . . "Jesus is alive!") to tell those around us why we are so excited this Easter. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT Reading Hebrews 2:14-15 (NKJV)

Liturgist

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

SERMON ANTHEM

*How Beautiful!*

Choir

## MISSION MOMENT

GOSPEL READING: John 20:1-18 (NKJV) Liturgist

Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw *that* the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." <sup>3</sup> Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. <sup>4</sup> So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, <sup>7</sup> and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went away again to their own homes. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept, she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb.

<sup>12</sup> And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. <sup>13</sup> Then 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." <sup>14</sup> Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am

ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'  
" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.

## PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Pastor

*If you have a prayer need or praise that you would like to share with the congregation, please fill out a card and pass it toward the center aisle of the congregation as we are singing the Hymn of Preparation. The pastor will collect the cards during the song and pray over the cards at the chancel rail.*

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION      *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (v.  
1-4)      UMH #327

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor

## SERMON

Pastor

**Title:** Letting Go

**Theme:** The Re-Creation Story (Easter Sunday)

**Main Idea:** The Risen Jesus sees all of us, too, just as we are and offers to re-create us with resurrection life.

## RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES (Celebrating Our Gifts)

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mighty God of Resurrection and Redemption, we offer our gifts alongside our alleluias! We long for Easter to fill us and soak into our bones like those who were confronted in a graveyard by angels announcing, "He is not here, he is risen!" May we run from here, not walk, because we and every corner of the world so desperately need to hear the news the angels share! Before we speak a word, may

others see in our faces that the world has been turned upside down. You win; death loses. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

## PASSING THE PLATE

\*DOXOLOGY                      *Praise God, From Whom All  
Blessings*                              See screen

\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION      *He Lives!* (v. 1-4)      UMH #310

\*COMMISSION / BENEDICTION (Inspired by John 11:1-45)

Pastor

*Go out into the world in the joy and peace of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Care for his redeemed creation; follow him as children of the light; make disciples by your life and words; and glorify him by your dedication and love; so may he bless you with his gift of the Holy Spirit and be with you until his kingdom comes. And all of God's children said...Alleluia and Amen.*

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE                      *Love and  
Fellowship*                              See screen

## POSTLUDE

### **The Easter Lilies Are In Memory Of:**

#### **All Our Loved Ones**

*By Mary Alice & Michael Linzy*

**My son, Frank R. Donofrio**

*By Donna Wheeler*

**My husband, W.T. Spence**

**My son, Roy A. Spence**

**My son, Walter T. Spence**

*By Dorothy C. Spence*

**Jack & Neva Holland**  
**Jena Holland**  
*By Marty Holland*

**Members of the Matthews and Rackley Families**  
**Who Are With the Lord**  
*By Diane & David Matthews*

**Our Loved Ones**  
*By Franklin & Frances Chaires*

**Hazel and Harry Wagner**  
**Buddy Alley**  
*By Pat Alley*

**Bob & Gloria Butler**  
**Jo Hall**  
**Don & Julie Fickle**  
*By Virgil & Maggie Hall*

**James Graham**  
*By Sue Graham*

**Pat Katz**  
**Nina Doreen**  
*By*  
*Tiffany Foote*

**Rick's Parents, Dick & Dorothy**  
**Paula's Dad, Charles F. LaBounty**  
**Paula's Siblings, Dawn, Vance & Lorraine**  
*By Rick & Paula Davies*

**The Easter Lilies Are In Honor Of:**

**Alice Linzy and Her Family**

*By Mary Alice & Michael Linzy*

***God's Gift of Family***

*By Cathy Lee*

**Our Children & Grandchildren**

*By Bob & Donna Corson*

**He Is Risen! Glory to God!**

*By Lynne Fannin*