

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024)

Share:

Yesterday we thought death had won.
Yesterday we thought all was lost.
Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen today.

Read these words from a hymn:

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia! All creation, join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O 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!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!

Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia! Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

Read this scripture from worship:

Acts 10:34-43, *The Message*

³⁴⁻³⁶ Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he's doing it everywhere, among everyone.

³⁷⁻³⁸ "You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him.

³⁹⁻⁴³ "And we saw it, saw it all, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him—he wasn't put on public display. Witnesses had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand—us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we're not alone in this. Our witness that he is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets."

¹⁻³ At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus.

⁴⁻⁸ They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?" Then they remembered Jesus' words.

⁹⁻¹¹ They left the tomb and broke the news of all this to the Eleven and the rest. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them kept telling these things to the apostles, but the apostles didn't believe a word of it, thought they were making it all up.

¹² But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that's all. He walked away puzzled, shaking his head.

Talk together:

- How do you feel on Easter morning?
- When have you experienced a holy "and" when you thought something in your life had come to an end? When have you begun again—despite heartbreak, or grief, or failures?
- Even after the biggest failures, even after the worst-case scenario has happened, can we run toward hope? Like Peter, will we keep going? Will we keep looking for God in our midst?
- How can belief in the God of resurrection truly can change the world?
- In what ways are you experiencing resurrection this Easter?

Pray together:

God of resurrection hope and new life, open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter might feel within reach. Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable. And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts, we listen, and we pray, in the name of our Risen Lord. Amen.

Resources Used:

Sanctified Art
The Message
Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal