

Sun., April 17 - Easter Sunday

6a.m. Sunrise Service:

Message: "What Happens in Jerusalem....Doesn't Stay in Jerusalem!"

10a.m. Worship Service:

Memory Verse: Proverbs 16:9 "People may plan their paths, but the Lord directs their steps."

Reading of Scripture: Luke 24:1-12 (The Empty Tomb)

Message: Luke 3 Miracle 8: "The Easter Miracle"

Text: Luke 24:1 "Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared."

Scripture: Luke 24:36-49 (The Evening Appearance)

Blurb: The greatest miracle in human history was Jesus' resurrection that first Easter. But celebrating that miracle is meaningless unless we make Jesus our risen Lord. This Sunday we proclaim the greatest miracle of our lives: Jesus is alive in us...and that changes everything!

[Recorded Worship Beginning]

WELCOME -Pastor David

Christ is risen! [He has risen indeed!]

Christ is risen! [He has risen indeed!]

Christ is risen! [He has risen indeed!]

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

"People may plan their paths, but the Lord directs their steps." -Proverbs 16:9

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Prerecording

Death Was Arrested

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

[Live Worship Beginning]

GATHERING SONG: *How Great Is Our God* -Sanctify

WELCOME -Pastor David

Christ is risen! [He has risen indeed!]

Christ is risen! [He has risen indeed!]

Christ is risen! [He has risen indeed!]

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

“People may plan their paths, but the Lord directs their steps.” -Proverbs 16:9

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Sanctify

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

Easter Joy (instrumental)

Living Hope

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

[Both Recorded & Live Worship]

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:1-12

The story of Easter starts in sadness and darkness. It starts at Jesus’ tomb with the women gathering to finish the burial. But it does not go as planned! Luke doesn’t record Jesus’ appearance to Mary. He reports the angel’s message. As you hear this story, listen for how everyone reacted to the Easter news. Luke 24:1-12,

“1 Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in, they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 They didn’t know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. 5 The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He isn’t here, but has been raised. Remember what He told you while He was still in Galilee, 7 that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ 8 Then they remembered His words. 9 When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. 11 Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn’t believe the women. 12 But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.”

LOVE MOMENT: “Easter Offering” -Pastor David

PRAYERS: “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” -Pastor David

CREED: “The Apostles’ Creed” -Pastor David

GENERATIONAL BRIDGE -Pastor Andrew

MESSAGE: Luke 3 Miracle (Luke 7-9) 8: “Miracle of Easter: It Doesn’t Go as Planned!”

PP#1: The Miracle of Easter: It Doesn’t Go as Planned!

“Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared.” -Luke 24:1

“Miracle of Easter: It Doesn’t Go as Planned!” Luke 24:1 “Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared.”

So, carefully take the plastic Easter egg you got in the way in, and DO NOT OPEN THEM. Just shake them a little. You may *want* to open it to see what’s inside. But just hang on a bit!

PP#2: *Image(s) of a person(s) feeling trapped in hardship, struggle, hopelessness, despair.*

The good news of Easter is that: *because of God, it doesn’t go as planned!*

You know what it’s like: facing a hard reality that holds on with a relentless grip. It looms before you, and you can’t get away no matter what you do. You have to face it. Like that diagnosis of cancer. Like the car crash that changed everything. Like your divorce. Like your bankruptcy. Like your kid ghosting you. Like the dream you promised yourself you would have by this age. Like the depression that clouds your mind and how you have to work to get out of bed. Like that erupting anger that flairs up uncontrollably. Like that stewing bitterness that sours the pit of your stomach. Like getting fired. Like that gnawing feeling of failure deep inside. Like the death of that person you just can’t see yourself going on without.

It’s your reality, and you can’t avoid it. It’s the darkness you wake up to each day. It’s there, and you have to deal with it.

So, you muster ideas and try to come up with a plan. You collect your resolve and commit to doing your best. You try not to think too much about it and just try to get something accomplished. Just put one foot in front of the other. Do what you can. Do something.

Make a plan. Make preparations. Head out into the darkness.

PP#3: Luke 24:1-12 (CEB)

1 Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in, they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 They didn’t know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. 5 The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He isn’t here, but has been raised.

This is how Easter begins. We heard this in Luke 24, verse 1. It was the first day of the week...again. Yep, another cycle starting...again. The last week had ended traumatically and tragically. Jesus was unjustly condemned and killed. They were in shock. Their reality was a relentless grip, clutching their throats, choking them. All they could do was to make a plan to face it. They made preparations: buying and organizing the spices for His burial. The morning came, the reality still loomed, and they pushed to get out of bed. They collected themselves, resolved to go do something, grabbed their spices of death, and headed out into the darkness: putting one foot in front of the other.

PP#4: Easter Miracle: It Doesn't Go as Planned!

1. We can see only death

This is how Easter begins. It begins right here, where we are: where we are staring at darkness, held fast by stifling death, gripped by hopelessness, gasping for air. We know this, you and I. This is what life is like. This is what *our lives* are like! The reality is relentless. The pain is choking. The death is real.

Shake your plastic egg again. See how it's closed?

PP#5: Luke 24:1-12 (CEB)

1 Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. 5 The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He isn't here, but has been raised.

But the miracle of Easter is that because of God, it doesn't go as planned. The women *planned* to go deal with death. They *planned* to do what they could to make the best of it. They *planned* to at least try to make it smell better.

But because of God, what they *planned*, and what they *found*, were two very different things!

Verse 2: They found the stone rolled away. Verse 3: They didn't find the body of Jesus. Instead, verse 4, they found two strangely glowing men talking about Jesus being raised.

Their reality was so fixed—so powerful, so unrelenting—that they could not figure out what was going on. I love verse 4, "They didn't know what to make of this." What they discovered was so incomprehensible that, verse 5, they were frightened.

The miracle of Easter is that when we are clenched by our dark reality, because of God, our fatalism is frightened! Did that sink in? The miracle of Easter frightens our fatalism! Church, isn't this good? Hallelujah!

And the two glowing men ask a reorienting question: Why are you trying to carry out your plans? Things have *already* changed!

PP#6: Easter Miracle: It Doesn't Go as Planned!

1. We can see only death
2. But reality has already changed

What you think is real, is no longer true! How you are acting, what you are planning, what you are dragging yourself to go do, is all wrong! It didn't go like you planned! Hallelujah!

It didn't go as you planned: that's true for Jesus' followers back then—with His shocking arrest and crucifixion...and then with His shocking resurrection!—and it's true for Jesus' followers now—with the grip of death, the anger, the diagnosis, the failure, the broken relationships that are our current reality. When God shows up, it doesn't go the way plan. Happy Easter!

PP#7: Luke 24:1-12 (CEB)

6 He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what He told you while He was still in Galilee, 7 that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' 8 Then they remembered His words. 9 When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others.

[Luke 9:22 "He said, 'The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected—by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts—and be killed and be raised on the third day.'"]

[Luke 9:44 "Take these words to heart: the Son of Man will be delivered into human hands"]

Make a note to verse 6, saying, "See Luke 9:22 & 44." We just covered that a couple of weeks ago! Didn't get it then; still weren't tracking! But at least now they remember. To verse 9 make the note, "No Judas." That's why Luke now calls them "The Eleven."

PP#8: Luke 24:1-12 (CEB)

10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. 11 Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. 12 But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened."

But the disciples were still going on as they had planned: in the dark, in hopelessness, in death. Shake your Easter eggs again. Verse 11: the eleven thought it was nonsense and didn't believe. Even Peter, who went to the tomb—(Luke doesn't explain that John also went) Peter went looking for Jesus' body, but only found a cloth—comes back disoriented and puzzled.

Make a note to verse 10, saying, "See Luke 8:2-3." We also recently covered that.

PP#9: Easter Miracle: It Doesn't Go as Planned!

1. We can see only death
2. But reality has already changed

Now, Luke doesn't tell about Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene Easter morning. So, the Easter morning story is about the disciples *hearing* the new and different reality. They *hear* the announcement, but they are still stuck in shock and disbelief.

Maybe that's your reality this morning. You've come to *hear* the story of Easter, how Jesus is not dead but alive, but yet you still struggle with your dark reality. You hear the angels' announcement, but you still limp along with your plans. Easter may have happened, but it's not really all that real for you. Shake your plastic Easter eggs again. Still closed. Still stuck. Still just like you plan.

PP#10: Luke 24:13-35

Story of Jesus appearing to two disciples on the way to Emmaus Sunday afternoon.
Fitting image either on the road or at the meal.

And that's the reality of the next story Luke tells. It's a story only in Luke. In verses 13-35 he tells about two disciples walking to Emmaus in defeat. All they can plan is to go home and face their reality. But then, the risen Jesus appears to them, and things don't go as planned!

They rush back to Jerusalem and tell all the others that they've seen Jesus!

PP#11: Luke 24:36-49 (CEB)

36 While they were saying these things, Jesus Himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 37 They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones like you see I have.” 40 As He said this, He showed them His hands and feet.

Turn to Luke 24, verse 36. We pick up the story as the two disciples are back with the others in the Upper Room in Jerusalem Easter evening. Verse 36, “While they were saying these things, Jesus Himself stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ [Traditional greeting, but now with a brand new meaning, right? But the disciples, of course, are too shocked to appreciate it. Their eggs were still sealed, after all. Verse 37,] “They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.” When focused on the plans we make, we often doubt anything else, even if it’s right in front of us, right?

Verse 38, “He said to them, ‘Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones like you see I have.’ 40 As He said this, He showed them His hands and feet.” Make a note to verse 40 saying, “Crucifixion scars still on Jesus’ new body.” Jesus was raised from the dead. He got a new body—a pretty incredible one as He was able to transport around and suddenly appear inside a locked room! No wonder they were bewildered! It’s just so amazing, it was hard to process it all. But I just love how they jump immediately way over to the crazy, even though they’ve been told over and over that Jesus was actually alive. Superstition of a closed egg!

PP#12: Luke 24:36-49 (CEB)

41 Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, He said to them, “Do you have anything to eat?” 42 They gave Him a piece of baked fish. 43 Taking it, He ate it in front of them.

With image of Jesus eating fish in the Upper Room

So, is He a ghost? A figment of their group imagination brought on by hopeful tales of the women and the two disciples? Verse 41, “Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, He said to them, ‘Do you have anything to eat?’ 42 They gave Him a piece of baked fish. 43 Taking it, He ate it in front of them.” Make a note to verse 43 and reference, “See Luke 8:55.” When Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter, He told them to give her something to eat. That way they knew she was really restored. Here, Jesus eats a fish in front of them to prove to them that He was truly raised from the dead, body and all.

PP#13: Easter Miracle: It Doesn’t Go as Planned!

1. We can see only death
2. But reality has already changed
3. Easter opens our closed realities / opens God’s plan

Okay, Jesus has appeared! That means it’s finally time to open our plastic eggs and look inside. What’s there? It’s an eraser, shaped like a fish! What a great Easter treat! And the fish proclaims that Jesus is alive! In the story, Jesus ate fish on Easter to prove He was real and alive! And, it’s an eraser...huh!...*hang* on to that a minute, *literally and mentally!*

PP#14: Luke 24:36-49 (CEB)

44 Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.

So, now He has their full attention. What does Jesus Himself proclaim on Easter? What is Jesus’ Easter message? Isn’t it exciting to be following Jesus with Luke? We get to place ourselves right there in the Upper Room and hear Jesus’ Easter message. So awesome!

Verse 44, “Jesus said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’” All this has happened not the way *you* planned, but the way *God* had planned! Don’t miss this. All this has been planned from the beginning. God was always at work. Even when things looked grim and dead, God was working. All along God had a plan!

Verse 45, “Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.”

PP#15: Easter Miracle: It Doesn’t Go as Planned!

1. We can see only death
2. But reality has already changed
3. Easter opens our closed realities
4. God’s Plan was always there

Look at your opened egg and eraser. These erasers had been in the closed eggs all along. We heard them rattle inside our eggs, right, when we thought we were facing our reality? But the hope and joy of Easter was already there, even when all we could see was the sealed tomb. That was Jesus’ Easter message: God’s plan was always there. God had a plan to bring transformation, to bring change, *to erase the reality of death and hopelessness, the reality we face*, and to bring new possibilities and a new future. This had been God’s message all along!

PP#16: Luke 24:36-49 (CEB)

46 He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 Look, I’m sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

Verse 46, “He said to them, ‘This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.’”

God’s plan happens. God’s plan breaks through. God’s plan breaks open our closed and sealed plans. Because of Easter, for us it doesn’t go as we planned! Hallelujah!

PP#17: Easter Miracle: It Doesn't Go as Planned!

1. We can see only death
2. But reality has already changed
3. Easter opens our closed realities
4. God's Plan was always there
5. Easter erases our plans of defeat

Hold your open, empty Easter egg, and the eraser that was inside. Because of Easter, God erases the future of defeat that we once had. God erases the reality that had us trapped. The hopelessness of financial defeat, the despair of torn relationships, the death of lost dreams, the trap of unrelenting anger and bitterness within us, the emptiness of going on alone: all of these God's Easter Plan erases! God brings an eraser to our hearts—in verse 47 Jesus says “a change in heart and life”—the Bible calls this justification. When we open our hearts to the risen Jesus, God erases our defeat, our bitterness, our hopelessness, the reality as we currently see it, our future going nowhere.

Instead, we now are cleared for a different future! We proclaim forgiveness—an erasing!—of sins! We see open, freed lives! As Luke makes sure to include, this Easter message is for everyone: not just Jews, but to all nations, for Gentiles the world over. It's for you and me, here today! Hallelujah!

Easter life—new life, transformed life—comes in Jesus' name. It is HIS resurrection that opens up closed tombs and lives. What happens in Jerusalem...does NOT stay in Jerusalem! Amen?

PP#18: Luke 24:36-49 (CEB)

46 He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 Look, I'm sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

Verse 48, “You are witnesses of these things.” Even as they weren't understanding it all, they were still witnesses to all this Miracle of Easter. They saw it, and they experienced it. Jesus appeared to them, and broke their closed lives open.

PP#19: Easter Miracle: It Doesn't Go as Planned!

1. We can see only death
2. But reality has already changed
3. Easter opens our closed realities
4. God's Plan was always there
5. Easter erases our plans of defeat
6. We are Jesus' Easter witnesses

We here today, perhaps struggling with closed lives shut up in death and despair, even when we don't understand it, we are witnesses. We hear the message: Jesus is alive. And we can invite Jesus into our locked rooms, and ask Him to open us up. The Easter Miracle is that it doesn't have to go as we plan! When the risen Jesus comes into our locked lives, we are opened, the trap of our bleak reality is erased, and we have new life, new possibilities, new futures.

And to this Easter experience, the transformation we are given, the abundant life we receive, we are witnesses, because this becomes our new reality. Jesus sends us as witnesses to a world also locked in death, closed in despair, trapped by anger and bitterness, focused on a closed reality. We proclaim that Jesus is alive. He has opened us, and He can open you! God has always planned to erase what we can see and give us a future we can't yet describe.

PP#20: Luke 24:36-49 (CEB)

46 He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 Look, I’m sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

Verse 49, ““Look, I’m sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”” That comes at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit is given into us. We’ll come back to that in May.

PP#21: *Image for Easter creating a new future ahead*

But today: you and I, we have the Holy Spirit. We have God’s Easter power. Things have already changed. The plan that God has always planned has happened! That is our new reality! We proclaim the erasing of our closed reality, and we proclaim the gift of a new plan ahead. We proclaim the Easter miracle: that it doesn’t go as we planned!

Praise be to the risen Jesus! Hallelujah! Amen!

[Live Worship Only] CLOSING SONG: *Death Was Arrested* -Sanctify

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS -Pastor David

Wednesday night: Wed. meal, Youth Group

Next Sunday’s message: New series: “Rejected” with a panel of preachers!

Read ahead: Luke 10:1-24

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

“People may plan their paths, but the Lord directs their steps.” -Proverbs 16:9

BENEDICTION -Pastor David

Christ is risen! [He has risen indeed!]

Christ is risen! [He has risen indeed!]

Christ is risen! [He has risen indeed!]

POSTLUDE -Sanctify (live)