

“Living in the Light of Resurrection”

Memory Verse: Isaiah 60:1

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Scripture Reading: 1 John 1:1-10

### **SLIDE 1: TITLE**

I am not a morning person. I can count the number of sunrises I have seen on one hand. But there is one I remember so well. We were vacationing in Bar Harbor Maine right on the water. For some reason I got up early and couldn't go back to sleep. I made some coffee and sat out on the patio.

### **SLIDE 2: SUNRISE**

The cabin was situated on an inlet so across the water was Acadia National Park mountain range. The sun came up over the mountains (large hills) and turned the water from fog to a perfect mirror. It was beautiful! In those quiet moments, I couldn't help but reflect on what that new day means. It's a fresh start, a chance to leave behind the darkness of the night and embrace the light of a new beginning. It's a powerful metaphor for the transformative power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ in our lives. Just as the dawn breaks through the darkness, so too does the light of Christ break through the darkness of our sin and despair, bringing hope, renewal, and joy.

### **SLIDE 3: The light of Christ break through the darkness**

This transformation doesn't happen all at once: It's a gradual process, just like the dawning of a new day. The first light of dawn is just a faint glimmer on the horizon, barely perceptible. But as the minutes and hours pass, that light grows brighter and brighter, until the full light of day is upon us. In the same way, when we first receive Christ into our hearts, we may only have a faint glimmer of understanding of what that means. But as we grow in our faith, as we read God's

word, pray, and fellowship with other believers, that understanding grows brighter and brighter, until we are fully living in the light of Christ's resurrection.

In the wake of Easter's jubilant celebration, we're left to contemplate the profound implications of Christ's resurrection. As the echoes of empty tombs and triumphant shouts fade, we're reminded that Easter is not just a single day's event but a continual journey of transformation and renewal. In the days following Easter, we're called to carry the message of Christ's victory into our daily lives, spreading the hope and joy of to all we encounter. Just as the disciples were empowered by the resurrection to boldly proclaim the Gospel, so too are we commissioned to live as witnesses of God's redeeming love. Let us embrace the week after Easter as a time of renewed commitment and purpose, as we walk in the light of Christ's resurrection.

This recommitment is not a passive process: We don't just sit back and wait for the light to come. If we want to see a sunrise we have to wake up in time to see it. We have to actively seek it. The same is true for our faith journey. We have to open our hearts to Christ, invite Him in, and allow Him to transform us. We have to turn away from our sin, repent, and choose to follow Christ. It's a decision we have to make, and it's a decision that requires commitment and dedication. Today, we'll dive into the wisdom of our scripture reading from 1 John 1:1-10, exploring how these passages teach us to live after Easter and challenges us to walk in the light of Christ.

#### **SLIDE : 1 John 1:1-4**

In the opening verses of 1 John chapter 1, the apostle John begins by emphasizing the reality of Jesus Christ, whom he and others have experienced firsthand. He talks about actually seeing, hearing, and touching Jesus. These verses give us one of the distinguishing characteristics of Christianity and one of the reasons that the Roman Empire was so threatened by it. Jesus was real. We claim a God who walked on the earth with us and who people touched and saw. He lived life with his disciples. He ate with them and slept on the road with him.

They witnessed Jesus perform miracles. They watched Jesus bring Lazarus back from the dead. John witnessed Jesus die on the cross. Then they witnessed Jesus for 40 days after the resurrection. John writes to his audience and to us not about some god who sits on high, with no connection to his people, but of a God that he saw. So when he writes these passages he wants his audience to know that this isn't just some other god, this is THE God and he was an actual witness of God's work. A God that lived and died for us. God's plan for salvation was achieved.

When you have seen or heard something so spectacular that you are bursting to share it with others, that is John. He is stating that everything they saw Jesus do while on earth including His resurrection is so incredible it has to be shared. That's why in verse 2, John says "we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us". Through the resurrection, Jesus has irrevocably altered the course of humanity's relationship with God. Jesus, the Word of life incarnate, has made fellowship with God accessible to all who believe.

John's purpose in sharing this testimony becomes clear in verse 3, where he declares his intention: "What we have seen and heard, we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." —to invite others into the same fellowship that he himself shares with God and Christ. Jesus has made fellowship with God possible.

Furthermore, in verse 4, John highlights the ultimate outcome of participating in this fellowship: he states "And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete." By bearing witness to the truth of Christ and inviting others into fellowship, John anticipates a deep sense of joy and fulfillment, not only for himself but for all who respond to the message.

In essence, these opening verses of 1 John serve as a direct call to witness and share the light of Christ with others. Just as John was compelled to testify to the reality of Jesus Christ, so too are we called to bear witness to His truth and

extend the invitation of fellowship to all. Through our testimony and fellowship, we not only experience the fullness of joy but also participate in the transformative work of spreading the message of salvation to the world.

### **SLIDE 5: 1 John 1:5**

Let's keep going, in verse 5, John delivers another profound declaration, he says "God is light, and in Him, there is no darkness at all." Here, John unveils a foundational principle of Christian living—the absolute purity and holiness of God. This statement serves as a grounding truth that declares the essence of Easter. As Christ emerged from the tomb, victorious over death, He shattered the chains of sin and darkness that bound humanity. In that moment, a new dawn of hope and restoration began, illuminating the path toward reconciliation with God.

God is perfect because the standard of perfection is based on the person of God. God's identity determines the standard for righteousness or perfection. There is no other standard.

This is important because it determines how you understand Easter. If God is not perfect, then sin doesn't exist. Sin is the failure to measure up to God, or as Pastor Andrew said a few weeks ago "to miss the mark" so if God isn't perfect there is no sin, so there is no need for Jesus. Perfection is a concept that is very difficult for our minds to comprehend. Nothing in the world around us is truly perfect. There is a flaw in all of it. So, perfection is completely outside of our experience with one exception. When you have experienced God, you have experienced the presence of perfection. As believers, we are called to walk in the light, embracing God's truth and righteousness in our daily lives. Furthermore, it requires us to make intentional choices that reflect God's righteousness. This may involve resisting temptation, forgiving others, and demonstrating love and compassion to those around us. In our daily lives, the metaphor of light can serve as a guiding principle for our conduct. When faced with moral dilemmas or temptations, we can ask ourselves, "Does this align with the truth and purity of

God's light?" The answer to that question can steer us away from darkness and toward the path of righteousness.

**SLIDE 6: 1 John 1:6-7**

When we move to verses 6-7 we find John emphasizing the significance of fellowship with God. He highlights the notion that claiming a relationship with God while living in darkness is self-deception. However, when we align our lives with Christ's teaching we deepen our relationship with Him.

In verse 6, John warns against claiming to have fellowship with God while walking in darkness. This serves as a reminder that our actions should align with our beliefs. We cannot profess to be followers of Christ while living a life contrary to His teachings.

As we journeyed through Lent, we were reminded of the immense price paid for our redemption and the depth of God's love for us. Christ's selflessness on the cross became a focal point of our contemplation, leading to a profound realization of His sacrificial love. Through His ultimate act of love, we found forgiveness for our sins and restoration to a right relationship with God, enabling us to experience genuine fellowship with Him.

Easter served as the culmination of this period of reflection and repentance, highlighting the victory of Christ over sin and death. It was through His resurrection that we were assured of our salvation and the promise of eternal life. Thus, as we contemplated Easter and its significance, we were drawn closer to God, grateful for His boundless love and mercy poured out for us on the cross.

Just as Easter serves as a unifying force, bringing believers from all corners of the globe together in celebration of Christ's triumph over death, fellowship with Christ has a similar effect, drawing us into a community of faith. We are called to be the church. It's a place where barriers melt away, and differences, though they may exist, become secondary to our shared belief in Jesus Christ. As we gather in

fellowship, we are reminded of the words of Jesus, who declared, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20, NIV). Indeed, it is in our communal worship, prayer, and service that we tangibly experience the presence of Christ among us.

### **SLIDE 7: 1 John 1:8-10**

We see that he has been leading us through the basics of the Gospel. He lays out that God sent Jesus into the world. A living God who walked the earth and died for your sins. He reminds us that God is perfect thus anything short of that is sin. And that we are the main way that the sinful world around us can experience God.

Finishing up John's message we look at verses 8-10. John directly confronts the reality of sin in our lives. He doesn't shy away from acknowledging our human tendency to deny or downplay our own sinfulness, cautioning us against falling into the trap of self-deception. Remember before I mention that if God is not perfect sin does not exist. Therefore, when we confess ourselves to be sinners, we can only do so with the understanding that God is perfect. It also means that we understand that we are sinful.

In verse 9, we read, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse from everything we have done wrong." This verse serves as a powerful reminder that God is always ready to forgive us when we come to Him with a repentant heart. Addressing the reality of sin in our lives head-on, John urges us not to minimize or deny our faults. He emphasizes that confession must be grounded in the acknowledgment of God's perfection and our inherent sinfulness. Nevertheless, he offers hope through the pathway of confession and repentance. By humbly confessing our sins, we open ourselves to God's faithful and just forgiveness, as affirmed in verse 9.

This verse serves as a powerful reminder of God's readiness to forgive those who approach Him with contrite hearts. Through confession and repentance, we pave

the way for God's cleansing and restoration. John's message resonates with the profound truth of Easter, where God's boundless grace and mercy are revealed through Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection.

Jumping back to that sunrise story. While I was in awe of the mirrored lake, I heard a tapping, Steve was at the window pointing to the side. As I turned there, surrounding the deck was a herd of deer. I was so focused on the sunrise before me that I had failed to see what was right next to me.

Don't we sometimes do that with Easter. We are so caught up in the glory and excitement that we don't look around. We overlook the neighbor, the family member, the friend who stands beside us, longing to hear the message.

As we reflect on the words laid out in 1 John 1:1-10, let us be reminded of the invitation extended to us—to fully embrace the God's truth and to walk boldly in authentic fellowship with Him and with one another. Let's recognize that this journey requires a commitment to live our lives that show our need for God's grace and forgiveness. As we do this may we be transformed from within not just for our own sakes but so that we may share the good news, the tomb was empty.

**SLIDE 8: good news, the tomb was empty.**

As we come to the end of this time together, let's envision ourselves stepping into a new day, just like the sunrise breaking over the horizon. Let's walk humbly, recognizing our salvation through Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit we can boldly share the good news.

**Email:** After Easter, we say now what?!? The beauty of the resurrection lies in what happens next. Just as Christ emerged from the tomb victorious over death, so too we are raised to new life. Let's welcome the renewal and transformation it brings.

**Memory Verse:**

“Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord’s glory has shone upon you.” Isaiah 60:1

**Benediction:**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with us now and forevermore.



## **Scripture Reading: 1 John 1:1-10**

**Through John's writing in 1 John 1:1-10 we can gain a deeper understanding of the testimony of those who witnessed the life and teachings of Jesus Christ firsthand.**

**1** We announce to you what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have seen and our hands handled, about the word of life. **2** The life was revealed, and we have seen, and we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. **3** What we have seen and heard, we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** We are writing these things so that our joy can be complete.

**5** This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: "God is light and there is no darkness in him at all." **6** If we claim, "We have fellowship with him," and live in the darkness, we are lying and do not act truthfully. **7** But if we live in the light in the same way as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. **8** If we claim, "We don't have any sin," we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we've done wrong. **10** If we claim, "We have never sinned," we make him a liar and his word is not in us.