

Easter Sunday

The Lion of Judah

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne, a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴ I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "DO NOT WEEP! SEE, THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, THE ROOT OF DAVID, HAS TRIUMPHED. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals...."

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they sang: "WORTHY IS THE LAMB, WHO WAS SLAIN, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

--Revelation 5:1-5, 11-12 (NIV)--

Old Orchard Church

April 20, 2014

The Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Sometimes the simplest songs are best. I'm not thinking of simplistic music, the sort of mindless jingles that assault us in service of consumerist and religious propaganda. Quite the opposite—I'm thinking of music so finely crafted that it captures a richly nuanced slice of reality without wasting a word or a note.

*Broken bottles, broken plates, Broken switches, broken gates,
Broken dishes, broken parts, Streets are filled with broken hearts.
Broken words never meant to be spoken, Everything is broken.*

A friend wisely reminded me of this Dylan song when I was trying to recover recently from a broken heart. Listening to it again (and again) named what I am living and that I am not alone. We invest an enormous amount of time, energy, and money to shelter ourselves from the brokenness. And so we should, I suppose. Only God can bear the full brokenness of the world without sliding into cynicism or despair.

*Broken cutters, broken saws, Broken buckles, broken laws,
Broken bodies, broken bones, Broken voices on broken phones.
Take a deep breath, feel like you're chokin', Everything is broken.*

Yet we are called to follow Christ. He left the shelter of eternity to embrace our brokenness so fully that even raw torture, betrayal, homelessness, and death alone in darkness were not kept from him. He befriended disreputable people until his reputation suffered and then he kept on anyway. He knows brokenness because he embraced ours.

*Broken hands on broken ploughs, Broken treaties, broken vows,
Broken pipes, broken tools, People bending broken rules.
Hound dog howling, bull frog croaking, Everything is broken.*

The brokenness is never easy, and sometimes just when we think our heart has been broken, it is broken again. It doesn't lessen the pain, but it makes it bearable to remember that Christ walked this path ahead of us.

And that he promises that someday soon grace will be so complete that, as C. S. Lewis put it, heaven will work backwards. “The Biblical view of things is resurrection,” Tim Keller says, “not a future that is just a consolation for the life we never had but a restoration of the life you always wanted. That means that every horrible thing that ever happened will not only be undone and repaired but will in some way make the eventual glory and joy even greater.”

It's the reason Christmas, the Eucharist, and Easter are worth celebrating, broken-hearted or not.

—Denis Haack in *Critique* magazine, Ransom Fellowship (2009)

Source: "Everything is Broken" by Bob Dylan on *O Mercy* (1989). Thanks to my friend Scott Twite for reminding me of this song.

Transition into Worship

“Joy Comes in the Morning”

From Psalm 30

Lyrics: Gregory Roig (2013)

Music: Gregory Roig

Helpless, Lord, I plead for mercy.
Do you hear my cry to save?
You who raise the soul from Sheol,
Restorer of those who fill the grave.
I know your anger is but a moment,
your favor, lifetimes of joy!

Joy comes in the morning; Joy comes in the morning.

Is there profit in my bloodshed?
And what benefit the grave?
Will dust testify you're faithful?
Can the ashes sing your praise?
Weeping rushes like dark waters
Pouring from the gloom of night.

Joy comes in the morning; Joy comes in the morning.

You turned my mourning into dancing
Only in rags, you clothed me in joy!
Give thanks to God on high!
Glory be! Glory to God on high, glory!

Proclamation of the Good News

John 20:1-18

Response

Leader: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again! Alleluia!

People: **He is risen indeed! The one hope of our broken and violent world.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Greeting of Peace

Greet one another in the name of Christ:

“The peace of the risen Lord be with you.”

“And also with you.”

Song Proclaiming Hope for Every Nation

“Jesus Christ is Ris’n Today”

Arnold’s *Compleat Psalmodist* (1740)
& Charles Wesley (1740)

Robert Williams (1817)

Verse 1

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia

Verse 2

Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
Unto Christ our heav’nly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Verse 3

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now in heaven above he’s King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Verse 4

Sing we to our God above Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love: Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heav’nly host, Alleluia!
Father Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

Christ's Victory

Christ when he died
Deceived the cross,
And on death's side
Threw all the loss;
The captive world awaked and found
The prisoners loose, the Jailor bound.

By Richard Crashaw (1613-1649)

Litany of Deliverance and Hope (from Isaiah 25, Psalm 16, & I Corinthians 15)

Leader1: On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples,

a banquet of aged wine — the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations;

People: He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces;

L2: he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth.

P: The LORD has spoken.

L1: But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

P: Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices; my body also rests secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

L2: Listen to this mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

P: For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

L1: For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

**P: “DEATH HAS BEEN SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY!”
“O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?
O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?”**

L1: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**P: In that day they will say,
“Surely this is our God; we have waited for him, and he saved us.
This is the LORD, we have waited for him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”**

**ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!
Alleluia! Praise the Lord.**

A Prayer for the Resurrection Kingdom to Grow

“Mighty Lord, Extend Your Kingdom”

If Christ Is the Answer, What Are the Questions?

“Because here's something else that's weird but true: in the day-to day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship—be it Jesus Christ or Allah, be it YHWH or the Wiccan Mother Goddess, or the Four Noble Truths, or some inviolable set of ethical principles—is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth. Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you. On one level, we all know this stuff already. It's been codified as myths, proverbs, clichés, epigrams, parables; the skeleton of every great story. The whole trick is keeping the truth up front in daily consciousness.”

—American novelist David Foster Wallace (1962-2008)

Confession of Faith (adapted from the Scriptures and various orthodox creeds)

I believe that the man Jesus:

was crucified, was dead, and was buried;
that the third day he rose again from the dead;
that he ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.

From there in due time, he shall come to judge the living and the dead;
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
Or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
But with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

I believe that this same Jesus:

was promised beforehand in the sacred Scriptures;
was born son of Mary, of the seed of David according to the flesh;
was declared with power to be the Son of God
by his resurrection from the dead,
according to the Spirit of holiness.

I believe that this man Jesus:

is Christ, Israel's Messiah, our Lord and God.
And I confess that you Lord Jesus—
not despising the womb of a virgin woman, to become human—
overcame death,
and opened the kingdom of heaven to the faithful.

I believe that this same Jesus,

the one Lord Christ, is both God and man.
I believe that he now rules the universe,
and will come again in glory
to judge both the living and the dead,
and that his kingdom will have no end.

O Lord, with all eagerness now:

I look for the resurrection of the dead—
for myself, and for all who love you—
and I look for everything promised in the world to come,
so that what is mortal in me
may be swallowed up by Life.
Lord I believe; help my unbelief.
Praise God in the highest! Amen.

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Song of Confidence

“Christ Is Risen”

Matt Maher (2004)

Words are in the print copy.

Tithes and Offerings.....Song of Invitation

“There is a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

From Psalm 103:8, 11-12

Gregory Roig

Gregory Roig (1989)

(A word about the synthesizer in worship this morning. When I composed this song I chose the synthesizer as an instrument that can help capture a sense of the powerful hugeness of God’s love that might overwhelm were it not for its coming in the tender intimacy of Jesus. That intimacy is communicated by the “closeness” of the harmony of the choir. I hope this piece will help you appreciate the intimate yet truly awesome nature of God’s love.)

There is a wideness in God’s Mercy;
 There is a nearness to God’s care.
There is a wideness in God’s mercy;
 There is a closeness to God’s care.
For high as the heavens tow’r above—
 So very great is his love.

As far as east from west he has taken our sins,
removed them all, to call us close unto himself;
surrounding with his steadfast love;
dwelling within our hearts!

“Come Unto Me”

by Toyohiko Kagawa (c. 1937)

Proclaiming the Word of God

Ron Lutjens, pastor, preaching

“Mary Magdalene and Jesus: The Sufferer and the Savior”

Text: John 20:1-18 (NIV)

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!” ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes, ¹¹ but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don't know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ “Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Song of Response to the Healing Grace of God

“The Tree of Life”

Pecselyi Kiraly Imre von (1961)
Paraphrased by Erik Routley (1974)

K. Lee Scott (1987)

Our Share in the Body and Blood of Christ

For our guests this morning: We celebrate the Lord’s Supper in a circle. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

This is the Supper of the Lord Christ, who is *both* the Holy One of Israel and a tender Savior. He loves messed up people and saves them when they come to him in repentance and childlike trust. So please consider seriously the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

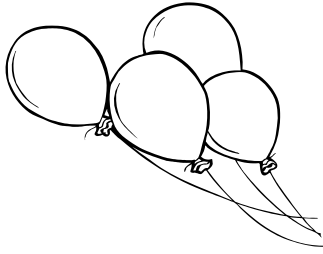
Song for People With Everlasting Joy

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

Samuel Medley (1738-1799)

John Hatton (c. 1790)

Blessing on the People of God



Jesus is

A warm welcome to those who are guests with us today. Please join us after worship in the front yard of the church as the children send off their balloons, a symbol and a message to our neighborhood—and to those who find the balloons—that Jesus truly rose and destroyed death!

If you would like to know more about Old Orchard Church, please call us at 314-962-3795. We'd be happy to talk with you.

Credits

Cover Art: Woodcut by David Frampton

Music

Thanks to the choir and all the musicians for helping us to worship this morning and to our Music Director, Greg Roig, for bringing them together!

Songs

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