

HOPE CHURCH



Help My Unbelief, Ellie Beam

Resurrection of the Lord
April 5, 2026

Reflections

“The most fantastic of all Christian claims is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. It strains our credulity to the limit. Human beings have tried with all possible ingenuity both to defy and to deny death. But only Christ has claimed to conquer it, that is, to defeat it in his own experience, and to deprive it of its power over others.”

John Stott

“I find that Holy Week is draining; no matter how many times I have lived through his crucifixion, my anxiety about his resurrection is undiminished – I am terrified that, this year, it won’t happen; that, that year, it didn’t. Anyone can be sentimental about the Nativity; any fool can feel like a Christian at Christmas. But Easter is the main event; if you don’t believe in the resurrection, you’re not a believer.”

John Irving, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

“Doubt is the ants-in-the-pants of faith; it keeps it alive and moving.”

Frederick Buechner

“A faith without some doubts is like a human body without any antibodies in it. People who blithely go through life too busy or indifferent to ask hard questions about why they believe as they do will find themselves defenseless against either the experience of tragedy or the probing questions of a smart skeptic. A person’s faith can collapse almost overnight if she has failed over the years to listen patiently to her own doubts, which should only be discarded after long reflection.”

Tim Keller, *The Reason For God*

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!

Rejoice now, heavenly host and choirs of angels
And let your trumpets shout Salvation
For the victory of our mighty King.
The victory of our mighty King

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
Radiant in the brightness of our King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes forevermore!

Rejoice, O Holy Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
Echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”**

from Revelation 5, Psalm 118

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

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!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? 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!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head; Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise: Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

PRAISE SONG

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns,

the Lamb upon his throne.

Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife

for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but

the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:6, 9-11

RENEWAL SONG

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea:
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart;
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me;
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood:
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God;
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood:
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God;
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED (Both Services)

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“The Risen Lord Jesus, Worthy of Our Belief”

David Speakman

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”

²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

John 20:24-29

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Exsultet

1. Re - jice, heav'n-ly pow'rs! Sing choirs of an - gels!

Je - sus Christ our King is ris - en!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Eternal Weight of Glory

Now the days and hours and moments
 Of our suffering seem so long
 And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
 Threaten silence to our song
 Now our pain is real and pressing
 Where our faith is thin and weak
 But our hope is set on Jesus
 And we cling to him, our strength

Oh eternal weight of glory!
 Oh inheritance divine!
 We will see our Lord redeeming
 Every past and future time
 All our pains will be transfigured
 Like the scars of Christ our Lord
 We will see the weight of glory
 And our broken years restored

For behold! I tell a myst'ry
 At the trumpet sound we'll wake
 Death is swallowed up in vict'ry!
 When we meet our King of Grace
 Every year we thought was wasted
 Every night we cried "How long?"
 All will be a passing moment
 In our Savior's vict'ry song

We will see our wounded Savior
 We'll behold him face to face

And we'll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict'ry songs of grace

Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried "How long?"
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

What A Beautiful Name / Agnus Dei

Alleluia, Alleluia,
for our Lord God Almighty reigns.

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is

The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Holy, holy, are you Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb
You are holy, holy, are you Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb
Amen

SENDING

SENDING SONG

The Lord Has Overcome

The Lamb has overcome
The Lamb has overcome
The battle's done and the victory is won
For the Lamb has overcome

No grave could hold him down
No grave could hold him down
Up from the ground, "He is risen!" was the sound
No grave could hold him down

At God's right hand is he
At God's right hand is he
Our Perfect Plea as he lives to intercede
At God's right hand is he

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Glory be unto his name

The table now is spread
The table now is spread
This wine and bread, broken body and blood shed
The table now is spread

The day is drawing near
The day is drawing near
He shall appear and will wipe away each tear
The day is drawing near

The Lamb has overcome
The Lamb has overcome
The battle's done and the victory is won
For the Lamb has overcome

BENEDICTION

"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with

everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 13:20-21

LIFE TOGETHER

SERVE

Grab a manna bag by the exits to share with our unhoused neighbors!

Green Team: Reach out to Susan Mitchell or Tiffany Shin to help with Hope's plants.

Hope Kids Camp - June 1-4: Register now to volunteer!

CHURCH LIFE

Town Hall & Dinner - Apr. 8 5:30-7:15pm: Register for childcare.

Small Group Q&A Sessions: Register if you cannot make your Life Group gathering.

Women's Line Dancing - Apr. 25 2-4pm: All welcome; please register!

Congregational Meeting - May 3 10am: Kids SS and Nursery provided.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

HS Carowinds Trip - Apr. 11 8am-8pm: Register now.

Parents' Night Out Fundraiser - Apr. 24 5:30-8pm: Benefits Quito trip; Register now!

Summer Conference Registration Now Open for the Edge and RYM.

Hope Kids Camp - June 1-4: Register now for current K-5th!

Kids Connection - *April Verse* - I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live. John 11:25

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF MARCH 31ST, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 3/31	Difference	
Income	\$319,607	\$355,242	-\$35,635	-10.03%
Expense	\$374,169	\$398,699	-\$24,530	-6.15%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$54,561	-\$43,457		

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,558,309

MAKING ROOM FOR MORE UPDATE

Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received Beyond Commitments	Total Funds Received to Date
\$8.6 million	\$5,243,302	\$734,767	\$4,456,803