

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

April 8, 2007

Easter Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor
Welcome and Friendship Pads
Announcements
Invocation

PRELUDE: *Easter Alleluia!*..... McCleary
Exaltation Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *We Know That Christ Is Raised*.....Insert
(Congregation and Choir: Verses 1,2,4; Choir Only: Verse 3)

*CONFESSION AND PARDON The Rev. Dr. Fred Coates, Associate Pastor
Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession
Assurance of Pardon
Leader: ... Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

*RESPONSE: *He Is Lord*.....No. 305
He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM: *He Is Risen! Risen Indeed!* Hill
Chancel Choir, Orchestra, and Congregation

Congregation: *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, ye 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!

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!

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 28:1-10.....Pew Bible, pp. 31-32
Reader: Anne Telford (11:00)

ANTHEM: *Lift High the Cross*..... arr. Dobrinski
Exaltation Ringers

*SCRIPTURAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on

the third day; and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

*HYMN: *Because He Lives* (Verses 1,3)..... No. 447

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give
Offertory: *Christ is the World's Light*.....arr. Scott
Chancel Choir and Orchestra

*Doxology: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*..... No. 34
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED I Corinthians 15:12-20a (Insert) "The Biggest Deal-Breaker of Them All" Dr. Brown

*HYMN: *Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven* (Verses 1,2,3)..... No. 289

*INVITATION AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE: *Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven* (Verse 4)..... No. 289

*POSTLUDE: *Christ the Lord is Risen Again* Martin
Joanne Daykin, Organist

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* Those who are able will please stand.

If you are our guest today, welcome to First Presbyterian! We're so glad you're worshiping with us. For more information, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and speak with one of the pastors following the service. God bless you! Please worship with us again.

You can become a member of First Presbyterian TODAY by your profession of faith, transfer of church membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Elders from the Session meet after every service to receive new members. Please speak with Fred Coates, our associate pastor, in the Parlor following today's service.

Recordings of the 11:00 a.m. service are available at the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

Announcements

FOCUS ON JESUS Sermon Series on the Gospel of Mark begins April 22: In two weeks, we will start a new sermon series that puts the spotlight right where it belongs—on Jesus Christ. **FOCUS ON JESUS** will lead us through the Gospel of Mark from beginning to end. Mini-series within the overall series will provide helpful clarity and variety as we work through this Gospel. The preaching schedule for April and May is:

April 22	Mark 1:1	Introduction to <i>FOCUS ON JESUS</i> and Mark
April 29	Mark 1:2-8	"All About Jesus: The Promised One"
May 6	Mark 1:9-13	"All About Jesus: The Prepared One"
May 13	Mark 1:14-20	"All About Jesus: The Compelling One"
May 20	Mark 1:21-34	"All About Jesus: The Authoritative One"
May 27	Mark 1:35-45	"All About Jesus: The Compassionate One"

We will also provide an optional resource to help you in your personal study of the Gospel of Mark: *Mark for Everyone*. Its author is Tom (N. T.) Wright, one of the most well-known and capable Biblical scholars of this generation. His writing in *Mark for Everyone*, however, is for the average churchgoer. The passages outlined in *Mark for Everyone* correspond with those in our sermon series, so you can read and study as we go. ***Mark for Everyone* will be available for pickup in the Parlor on Sun., April 22.** The books are free, and we encourage donations to help with the costs; \$12 is suggested.

Discover First Pres Sun., May 20: If you are considering becoming part of our church, or if you're a new member who wants to know more about the congregation, then an excellent opportunity is coming your way! *Discover First Pres* is set for Sunday, May 20, 6:00-9:00 p.m. We'll begin with a dessert reception at the manse (next to the church) hosted by our pastor and his wife, Clay and Cathy Brown. Then we'll move to the church for a tour and a brief introduction to all things Presbyterian led by Dr. Brown. Meeting people, sharing information, and having a good time are the watchwords of the evening. Pre-registration is required. If you're interested or have any questions, please contact the church office at secretary@moorevillefirstpres.org or 704-664-5275. Child care is available if requested in advance—let us know when you register.

Announcements continued on insert.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	
249 West McLelland Avenue Mooresville, North Carolina 28115	
(704) 664-5275 www.moorevillefirstpres.org	
PASTORS	
<i>The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor/Head of Staff..... clay@moorevillefirstpres.org</i>	
<i>The Rev. Dr. Fred A.H. Coates, Associate Pastor associate@moorevillefirstpres.org</i>	
<i>Associate Pastor for Youth/Youth Director (Vacant—Search in Progress)</i>	
PROGRAM AND SUPPORT STAFF	
<i>Alan Sledge, Director of Music/Interim Youth..... musicdirector@moorevillefirstpres.org</i>	
<i>Ellen Auten, Director of Christian Education..... dce@moorevillefirstpres.org</i>	
<i>Nancy Kortright, Director of Preschool.....preschool@moorevillefirstpres.org</i>	
<i>LuAnne Sledge, Treasurer..... treasurer@moorevillefirstpres.org</i>	
<i>Nellie Goodman, Secretary..... secretary@moorevillefirstpres.org</i>	
<i>Billy Black, Sexton Joanne Daykin, Interim Organist</i>	

Calendar

Sunday - **Resurrection Sunday**
8:30 a.m. - Early Worship
8:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship

Monday: **Easter Monday** – Church Office Closed
6:15 p.m. - Blessed in Christ (No. 3) in the Session Room

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - Circle of Faith (No. 4) in the Parlor
12:00 p.m. - Women of the Word (No.5) at the home of Shirley Crowley
6:00 p.m. - Brownies in Room 219

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home
6:00 p.m. - Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
3:00 p.m. - Handmaidens of the Lord (No.6) at the home of Catherine Vaughan
4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF
5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF
7:00 p.m. - Committee Meetings
7:00 p.m. - Diaconate

Recent Prayer Requests: Mike Ladd and family; Susan Smith and family Terry Stevens; Frances Hunter; Martha Andrews; Eliza Good; Anne Lowe; John McClure; Cpl. James Gordon, USMC; Capt. Scott Goodrich, U.S. Army, Iraq (nephew of Sue Kopecek) and Laban Thompson and shipmates on the USS Guardian.

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Announcements (continued)

Save the Dates for Our Pictorial Directory: It is time for a new church pictorial directory! You're invited to sign up on the Sundays of April 15, 22, and 29 in the Parlor for appointments on the following dates and times:

- May 20 (Sunday) 12:30- 6:30 PM**
- May 21 (Monday) 3:00-9:00 PM**
- May 24 (Thursday) 3:00-9:00 PM**
- May 29 (Tuesday) 3:00-9:00 PM**
- May 30 (Wednesday) 3:00-9:00 PM**
- May 31 (Thursday) 3:00-9:00 PM**

Photos will be taken in Room 301. More information will be coming through the bulletin and newsletter—but mark your calendars now!

We welcome to our services this morning, our own high school brass and percussion ensemble. They are: Darlene Peacock and Neil Trimble, trumpet; Graham Sledge, French horn; Logan Bates, John Patrick Justice and Jay Trimble; trombone; and Matt Abele and Jordan Sledge, percussion. They are joined by Mr. Ryan Holden, trumpet.

Mission and a Movie: The April PYF local mission event will take place on Saturday, April 21 at 9:30 a.m. Each month, members of PYF meet at church to do a local mission project and then take in a movie. We'll be doing house and yard work for clients of the Mooresville Christian Mission, so get your teenager involved. The movie is on us, but bring some money for snacks, if you wish.

Parenting Bible Study: Parents of all ages are invited to attend a seven-week study, *Value-Packed Parenting: Raising Rock-Solid Kids in a Pleasure-Driven World*, beginning Tuesday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. The class will be led by Ellen Auten, using a video presentation by Dr. Kevin Leman, with group discussion and Bible study following the video. PYF members will be offering child care as a fund raiser for their upcoming Mission Trip. Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) to register for the class and/or to request child care.

Saints Alive Trip: The Saints Alive group is planning a trip to the North Carolina Museum of Transportation in Spencer on Friday, April 20. Plans are to leave at 10:45 a.m., eat lunch at the K & W in Salisbury, tour the museum, and return in the late afternoon. Cost is \$5.50. Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) to make a reservation

Christian Sympathy is expressed to Mike Ladd and family and Susan Smith and family in the death of their father, Dennis Ladd, on April 4.

Women of the Word (Circle No. 5) is meeting at the home of Shirley Crowley on Tuesday, April 10 at noon. A carpool will leave the church at 11:30 a.m. and participants should bring a bag lunch.

New Organist Begins May 1: We are pleased to announce Steve Mowery will begin as our organist May 1, with May 6 his first Sunday with us. In addition to his musical expertise and experience as organist and music director in various churches, Steve is also a PCUSA minister and has served as pastor at two North Carolina congregations. More information about Steve will be in the May newsletter. We look forward to his service with us.

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SERMON NOTES ♦ APRIL 8, 2007 ♦ 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.
“THE BIGGEST DEAL-BREAKER OF THEM ALL”
I CORINTHIANS 15:12-20A (ESV)

SERMON TEXT

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead...

SERMON OUTLINE

I. IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD, THEN IT IS THE BIGGEST DEAL-BREAKER OF THEM ALL. WHY? BECAUSE:

- A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY ARE WRONG...
- GOD IS BEING LIED ABOUT (AND HE DOESN'T LIKE IT)...
- HUMAN SINFULNESS IS STILL A HUGE PROBLEM...
- THOSE WHO DIED AS CHRISTIANS HAVE HUGE ISSUES...
- THOSE WHO BELIEVE LIVE PITIFUL LIVES...

II. BUT IF CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD, THEN:

- FAITH “WORKS,” AND IT WORKS WELL...
- WE’RE WORSHIPING THE RIGHT GOD—AND IT MATTERS...
- HUMAN SINFULNESS IS DEALT WITH DECISIVELY...
- DEATH IS NOT THE WINNER...
- LIFE IS INDEED WORTH LIVING BECAUSE HE LIVES...

III. HOW DO YOU KNOW? YOU CHECK THE EVIDENCE:

- THE HISTORICAL RECORD...
- THE EMPTY TOMB...
- THE EYE WITNESSES...
- THE CHANGED LIVES...

IV. YOUR RESPONSE: THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE OF YOUR LIFE.

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