



**seeking:**

*Who are you  
looking for?*

*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,  
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love  
by word and deed to all people.*

*Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6*

# The Worship of God

April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

## Easter Prelude

“We Will Rise Again”

Christian McIvor

Words and Music by  
Christian McIvor ©2019

“Te Deum Prelude”

Tim Hendrix and Christian McIvor

by Marc-Antoine Charpentier,  
arr. John Wallace and Simon Wright

“Above All”

Pam Weis

Arr. Mark Hayes

“From Death to Life Eternal”

GBC Handbell Choir

By Bill Ingram

“Thine is the Glory”

GBC Handbell Choir

By George Frideric Handel,  
arr. Susan E. Geschke

## Easter Proclamation

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

## Welcome

### ✠ Opening Hymn

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Words by Charles Wesley, alt.,  
Music: *Lyra Davidica* 1708

**Christ the Lord is ris’n today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heav’n in chorus say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high. Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth, reply: Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King. Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, He all doth save. Alleluia!  
Where thy 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!  
Foll'wing our exalted Head. Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise. Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

## Call to Worship

Christian McIvor

One: What are you looking for?

**All: The light before dawn.**

One: What are you looking for?

**All: A reason to hope**

One: What are you looking for?

**All: Joy after grief and flowers after winter.**

One: What are you looking for?

**All: A place to belong.**

One: What are you looking for?

**All: We are looking for the Messiah.**

One: Good news! Come in. Love is alive!

**All: Surely God is in this place.**

## Children's Sermon

April Alston

### † Centering Song

“Seeking”

Words and music  
by Christian McIvor ©2023

What are we seek-ing?\_ Where do we hear God speak-ing? May our  
ques-tions lead to deep-er und-er-stand-ing through a  
faith and love that nev-er stop ex-pand-ing.

## Call to Confession

Anna Beth Cross

## Prayer of Confession

God of resurrection,  
We confess, like a dog with a bone, we run aimlessly.  
We chase our tails, looking for things that provide answers  
to the suffering of the world, looking for comfort to our longest nights.  
You meet us in the darkness before dawn, but we mistake you for the gardener.  
Forgive us for seeking after worldly things.  
Forgive us for forgetting to seek you.  
Speak to us. Call us by name, that we might recognize you in our midst.  
With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.

## Words of Forgiveness

One: So hear and believe the good news of the gospel, the good news proclaimed in resurrection:

**All: What once was lost is found. We are held in God's loving embrace: forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Alleluia! Amen.**

## Offertory Anthem

"Easter Bells, Set Free Your Music"  
GBC Choir and Handbell Choir

Arr. Stewart Harris,

Easter bells, set free your music, chime with joy this sacred hour.  
Boldly share your alleluias, ring with resurrection power.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord!  
Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Now our hope has been restored!

Easter bells, declare your story, toll the news that life has won.  
Death surrendered to God's glory at the rising of the Son.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord!  
Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Now our hope has been restored!

Easter bells, resound with spirit, fill the world with joyful praise.  
Ring so all the world will hear it: Christ is risen from the grave!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord!  
Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Now our hope has been restored!  
Ring alleluia! Alleluia!

## † Easter Doxology

"Let Trumpets Sound and Voices Sing!"

O WALY WALY;

Words by John H. Danner,  
Music: Scottish Folk Melody

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!  
Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death  
And given life eternal breath.**

† **Prayer of Dedication**

Bill Baxley

**Scripture Reading**

John 20:1-18

Keith Vaughn

**Sermon**

*Who are you looking for?*

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

**Silent Reflection**

**Invitation**

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† **Musical Response 45**      “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

**Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! how the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as they matchless King thro’ all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love! Behold His hands and side-  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou has died for me:  
Thy praise and glory shall not fail thro’out eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o’er the grave;  
Who 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 Heav’n! One with the Father known,  
One with the Spirit thro’ Him giv’n from yonder glorious throne.  
To Thee be endless praise, for Thou for us hast died.  
Be Thou, O Lord, thro’ endless days adored and magnified!**

**Benediction**

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

**Postlude**

“Lift High the Cross”

Pam Weis

Arr. Larry Shackley

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# logo imagery key *what do you see?*



**eye-** The eye holds all of the logo's imagery and summarizes the theme of seeking, while referencing various narratives from the scriptural texts: Adam & Eve's eyes are opened, Jesus rubs mud on the blind man's eyes, Jesus asks Mary, "Who are you looking for?" The circles that create the pupil and iris can also represent: an aerial view of the well, the water basin at the footwashing, or the stone and tombs of Lazarus and Jesus.



**veil-** This curved line and the shape it creates repeats throughout the Seeking branding. The veil references the confusion and revelations that occur in a journey of seeking.



**mud / garden soil-** The drop of mud represents the dirt and garden imagery that is found throughout the scriptural texts: the Garden of Eden, the mud that is rubbed in the blind man's eyes, the garden of Gethsemane. It also references when Jesus is mistaken as a gardener at the empty tomb.



**water-** The drop of water references the many times water is mentioned in the texts. Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be born of water and spirit. Moses strikes a rock to find water. At the well, Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink and offers her living water. Jesus meets the blind man at the pool of Siloam. Jesus washes the disciples' feet. The water drop can also reference a tear; Jesus weeps at the mouth of his friend Lazarus' tomb, and Mary weeps at the mouth of Jesus' tomb.



**vessel-** The shape of the vessel can be seen as a cup or a jar poured out. The vessel represents: the jar the woman leaves behind at the well after meeting Jesus, the jar of sour wine offered to Jesus while on the cross, and the communion cup present at our remembrance of Christ's sacrifice.



**star / night-** The star references a couple of the narratives that take place under the veil of night. Nicodemus finds and questions Jesus at night, and Mary comes to the tomb while it is still dark. In reference to the logo's overall eye composition, the star represents the glistening of recognition in one's eye.



**leaf-** The leaf represents the foliage present throughout the texts, and further supports the repetition of garden imagery. Adam & Eve create fig leaf coverings in the shadow of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and upon Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the crowds wave palm branches.