

# **Welcome**

**Pastor Guy Gray**

*Thanks for being with us this Easter morning as we gather to worship the Lord. If you are a guest, we are so glad you have chosen to share this special day with us. May your heart be filled with joy as you focus your attention on Christ the risen Lord! And may the message of hope through Christ's resurrection touch each of our lives in the deepest way!*

## **Worship the Lord with Joy!**

*"After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. Then the disciples were filled with joy, when they saw the Lord!"* -John 20:20

Imagine their joy! In a moment, their world was transformed from dark shadows & despair to the bright light of an amazing hope. Here they felt the very first touch of resurrection power. Imagine what that moment felt like for the disciples that had experienced all of the tragedy first-hand. Imagine the smile on their faces, the tears in their eyes, the absolute awe. And then imagine the surge of excitement in their hearts.

Their encounter with Jesus Christ, the risen Lord, was about to change the world, but first it had to touch their own hearts and minds. They needed to share together in that overwhelming moment of wonder. I have no doubt that in that moment they became dynamic worshipers of the Lord!

C.S. Lewis, the famous Christian author, wrote about his conversion in a book called "Surprised by Joy." That was the perfect title for his story, because he fought so hard against coming to faith in Christ but in the end he simply could not resist the pull of the Gospel. Then, upon surrendering his life to Christ, he was so surprised to find a depth of joy that he had never experienced before. This experience of being "surprised by joy" goes all the way back to the very first Easter Sunday. And this has been the shared experience of believers in Christ ever since.

Our desire this morning is to feel the joy of faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ. We want to share together in the wonder of His resurrection life & power. We want to feel the sense of amazement & hope that the disciples felt that day. In fact, this Easter we should all be "filled with

joy” to the point of overflowing. Jesus is risen & offers the gift of salvation. Is there any more perfect truth?

## **NEXT STEPS**

### **Beginning a Relationship with Jesus Christ**

The Good News of the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ is sort of like a present. You only get the full experience if you open it up. So, how can you respond to the message & the Gospel? Romans 10:9 says “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” This is how you respond to what Jesus has done. Put your hope and your faith in Him. Commit your life to Him.

### **Believe It**

The first step is that you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. This belief is so important because it allows the power of the resurrection to touch your life. Call out to Him in prayer. Just believe.

### **Say it**

The second step is that you need to confess with your mouth in prayer that Jesus is Lord. This means submitting & committing your life to Him. This might sound scary, but Jesus is the one person you can submit to & be totally safe, totally cared for.

### **Dive into the Life God has Waiting for You**

The best way to learn about Jesus is to read what the Bible says about His earthly ministry & the Gospel of Mark is a great place to start. Get yourself a bible. Read a chapter a day. Get with a Christian friend or one of the Pastors & talk about Jesus over coffee. We would love to meet with you. The key is to get started. We promise, you will never be the same!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **TODAY**

**Easter Services, 9am &  
11am, Lakeridge HS**

**No Jr. High Youth Group**

### **FRIDAY 04/13**

**Friday Night Fellowship  
4th & 5th Grade  
7pm, RWLG**

**Junior High Parent  
Meeting, 7pm, RWCC**

### **SATURDAY 04/21**

**Ministry Prayer Time  
8am, RWLG**

**High School Beach Day  
Depart 11am RWLG**

**SATURDAY 04/28**

Family Fellowship Event,  
10am, OMSI

**SUNDAY 04/29**

Baptism Service, 7pm,  
RWLG

**SUNDAY 05/06**

Introducing River West  
7pm, RWLG

**EVERY WEEK**

Thursday Night Group  
7pm, RWLG

A drop-in community  
group with Pastor Adam-  
you are always welcome!  
Childcare is available.