

# Welcome

Pastor Adam McMurray

Thank you for joining 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! May the message of hope through Christ's resurrection touch each of our lives in the deepest way!

## A Community of Celebration

*...our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ...gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own...*

*-Titus 2:13-14*

We have so much to celebrate today! Easter Sunday is the day we gather to celebrate and rejoice in the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. The good news of the Gospel is the message of the many powerful and amazing things that Christ accomplished through His death and resurrection. His purpose was not simply to save isolated individuals but to create a new community—a community whose members would belong to Him. A “people that are His very own”!

What great news! You and I have been rescued from darkness into the Kingdom of Light, from isolation into the family of God, from loneliness and despair into a community that is held together by the Risen Christ.

It is a community whose members belong to Jesus, love one another, worship with joy and eagerly serve the world. On this day, more than any other, we are a Community of Celebration!

John Stott, in his book “The Cross of Christ” argues that the whole life of the **Christian community** should be conceived as a festival in which with love, joy and boldness we **celebrate** what God has done for us through Christ. This celebration would unite us with the heavenly chorus singing of the worthiness of our Redeemer and King:

*Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
To receive power and wealth and wisdom  
and strength  
And honor and glory and praise!  
(Revelation 5:12)*

*Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
Be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
That the King of Glory may come in.  
Who is this King of Glory?  
The Lord strong and mighty,  
The Lord mighty in battle.  
(Psalm 24:7&8)*

Our hope this morning is that this would be a day of celebration. A day in which we gather as a community to experience the joy of faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ. A day in which we share together in the wonder and amazement of His resurrection, life & power. A day in which we experience that power personally as individual members of the community of celebration. A day in which we lift our heads, raise our voices and join with the angels in worship! Jesus is risen! Let's celebrate!

## **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!

### **Coming Up:**

#### **Note the Changes this week:**

#### **No Foundations**

Thursday, March 27th

#### **No High School Youth Group**

Wednesday, March 26th

**No Jr. High Youth Group**  
Sunday, March 23rd & 30th

**Tuesday, March 25th—Saturday, March 29th NIKO**

High Schoolers are heading out on a wilderness adventure like no other over spring break—NIKO is a leadership training program where students discover more about who God has made them to be. For more information contact Pastor Josh at 699.2226 or [josh@riverwest.org](mailto:josh@riverwest.org)

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> Baptism Service, 7pm @ River West**

Baptism is an exciting and important step in the lives of believers. Come join us as people make this outward display of the inward change that has taken place in their hearts. If you are interested in Baptism or have questions about what Baptism is contact Adam at 699.2226 or [adam@riverwest.org](mailto:adam@riverwest.org).