



river west church

Easter Sunday

Pastor Guy Gray

4.24.2011

Welcome!

This morning we gather together as a community of faith to worship Jesus Christ our risen Savior. Thanks for joining us! This is the way it's going to go: we are going to lift our voices and we are going to open our hearts. Jesus Christ triumphed over death forever through the power of His resurrection on Easter Sunday, and so, we simply have to celebrate! We can't hold back. Our songs are the affirmation of our faith in Christ. So sing with us! Grab hold of the truth of Christ. Let it move you. Engage both your head and your heart. Think about the words we sing this morning. But don't stop there! Open your heart to the amazing truth of the Gospel.

The Starting Place of a "Living" Christian Faith

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the true starting place of the Christian faith. But wait! Doesn't Easter Sunday come, not at the beginning, but at the very end of each of the Gospels? Of course, and yet the resurrection is still the true beginning of the Christian faith. You can see it clearly as you read the Gospels. The disciples walked with Jesus, heard His teachings, saw His miracles and even witnessed His death upon the cross. But even with all of this, they still had "no clue" as to what it all actually meant. After Christ's death on the cross they were frightened, depressed, confused and basically clueless. But on Easter Sunday everything changed, radically. It was only after the resurrection that the disciples began to understand the true meaning of Christ's life, His death on the cross and His ultimate identity as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Their lives were changed forever. More than that, the whole world was changed forever. It has been rightly said that in the New Testament, there is not one single note of pessimism to be found after the resurrection of Jesus, the miracle of Easter.

Christ is Alive!

This is the foundation of a "living" faith in Christ. The resurrection is a miracle that took place at a specific time and place in history. But it is more than past history. The message of Easter is that Christ is alive right now. He is victorious. He is king. He is powerful. He is present! This is our hope and it thrills our hearts! We have come this morning to celebrate the wonder of the resurrection of Jesus, to worship our victorious Lord, to open our hearts to Christ and to experience a living, life changing, faith in our Savior. It is our prayer this morning that Jesus would set our hearts on fire with faith in Christ. As a result we want to change our world through the power and hope of the Gospel, in Jesus name!

Now...Let's Worship!