



**WEST BRIDGEWATER**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

*Join us live on our Facebook or YouTube page beginning at 9:15 a.m.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn: “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”**

*Words: Charles Wesley. Music: Lyra Davidica.*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Sons of men and angels 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 His rise, Alleluia!  
Christ hath 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!

**Hymn: “Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

*Words: Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring. Music: George J. Elvey.*

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 thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Son of God, before the worlds began,  
and ye who tread where He hath trod, crown Him the Son of Man;  
who ev'ry grief hath known that wrings the human breast,  
and takes and bears them for His own, that all in Him may rest.

Crown Him the Lord of love, behold His hands and side,  
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends His wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and 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 lords, who over all doth reign,  
who once on earth, th'incarnate Word, for ransomed sinners slain,  
now lives in realms of light, where saints with angels sing  
their songs before Him day and night, their God, Redeemer, King.

### **Hymn: "In Christ Alone"**

*Words and music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.*

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All; here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save;  
'til on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;  
for every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay; Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
for I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'til He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

## Time of Prayer

### Sermon: “O Death, Where Is Your Sting?”

#### 1 Corinthians 15:1–26, 30–34, 50–58 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We 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. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

<sup>30</sup> Why are we in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup> I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup> What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” <sup>33</sup> Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” <sup>34</sup> Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

<sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory?”

O death, where is your sting?"

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**Hymn: "Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed!"**

*Words and music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Ed Cash.*

How can it be, the One who died has borne our sin in sacrifice  
to conquer every sting of death? Sing, sing, "Hallelujah!"

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing "Hallelujah!"  
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:  
"Christ is risen, He's risen indeed!"

For joy awakes as dawning light when Christ's disciples lift their eyes.  
Alive He stands, their friend and King: Christ, Christ He is risen.

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing "Hallelujah!"  
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:  
"Christ is risen, He's risen indeed!"

Where doubt and darkness once had been,  
they saw Him and their hearts believed;  
but blessed are those who have not seen, yet, sing "Hallelujah!"

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing "Hallelujah!"  
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:  
"Christ is risen, He's risen indeed!"

Once bound by fear, now bold in faith,  
they preached the truth and power of grace  
and pouring out their lives they gained life, life everlasting.

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing "Hallelujah!"  
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:  
"Christ is risen, He's risen indeed!"

The power that raised Him from the grave  
now works in us to powerfully save.;  
He frees our hearts to live His grace. Go, tell of His goodness.

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing “Hallelujah!”

Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:

“Christ is risen, He’s risen indeed!”

### **Benediction**

#### **Hebrews 13:20–21 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup>Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup>equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.