

MAY
2019

A PUBLICATION OF ROYSTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Life together

Christ IS risen!

“He is not here. He has risen, just as he said.” - Matthew 28:6



Easter Sunday at Royston Baptist Church was an amazing day of worship and confetti-filled celebration! The sanctuary was packed. The music was beautiful and worship-*full*. Our kids helped us all celebrate Jesus in an exciting and memorable way. Jesus is alive and well at RBC!

And yet, we must remember that Easter is not over! Easter is more than one Sunday of the year. Eastertide is a 50-day season beginning on Easter Sunday and concluding at Pentecost - which celebrates the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Christian Church. So, we still have lots of Easter left this year!

The celebration of Easter Sunday makes it easy to sing at the top of our lungs that *Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! ... Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! ... Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!*

But, what happens when life happens and your schedules fill and you become stretched thin, struggling to keep it all together? ...What happens when death stings again? ... What happens when someone or something tries to steal your hope and your joy? ... What happens when someone tries to silence your resurrection celebration? What happens when all the confetti is vacuumed up?

Will you let Easter be simply a memory of the past? Will you allow Easter to be just another thing on the to-do list? Will resurrection just be something you sing about one day a year?

Or

Will you live fully and completely as Easter people all year long? Will you live in, and by, and through the resurrection hope shared with you by Jesus, who was and is and always will be God with us? Will your life proclaim resurrection as you sing *Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! ... Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

Believe in resurrection. Believe in life. Believe in Jesus.

Because, dear friends, *He has risen, just as he said*. And, because Jesus is alive in you, you are risen, indeed!

Christ IS risen, indeed!

William

EASTER REFLECTIONS BY DEBORAH HERRING

As I watch the sunrise over the water this morning with all the glory of the golden rays extending in a radiant burst, I am reminded that the glory of the Lord is more brilliant and enduring. Nothing can stop Him from ruling victorious! I am awed that when he created the entire universe he wove me and you in His tapestry and His sacrifice on that cruel cross almost 2,000 years ago is the source of our hope. I need to be reminded of this every year and even with deliberate reflection

and contemplation, my mind can hardly grasp the awesome sacrificial gift He gave. We honored Him at Royston Baptist on Easter Sunday by giving the best we could offer in a formal fanfare calling all to "Rejoice with a Gladsome Voice." We played our instruments - organ, piano, drums, guitar, bass, as the choir led and all of our voices in a celebration of the Risen King! The children threw confetti, Rev. William preached the word with power, conviction

and passion, and we picked up our crosses to take with us as a reminder of the hope we now carry all the days of our life. He is Risen Indeed! Life is an accumulation of the powerful moments where the truth of God becomes woven in our hearts and we are connected into the Master Weaver's pattern until the day when we see the glory of God revealed in the flesh and His full tapestry is revealed before our eyes. I'm grateful that He has woven our lives together for eternity!

EASTER THROUGH FRESH EYES BY SARA FREEMAN

This was my first Easter season spent on staff at Royston Baptist Church and it was one for the books! Not only did I get to throw some confetti with my little friends on Easter Sunday (with a celebratory mess to follow!), but it was also the first Easter that I was fully absorbed in the events of Holy Week.

Never have I been more aware of what was taking place on Palm Sunday, with Jesus entering the streets of Jerusalem to shouts of praise, or the night of Maundy Thursday, where Jesus welcomed his closest friends to join Him at the table, even

though He knew the events that would transpire the next day. Maybe it was because I was so engrossed with the process of planning and carrying out the services to commemorate such events, but those huge moments in the life of Jesus came alive for me like never before.

I think that one of the Holy Spirit's favorite things is to take familiar moments from the Word of God and to make them jump off the pages in new and fresh ways, either cutting us to the bone or springing up hope anew in our hearts. Paul once wrote that the Word of God is alive, able to move in and out

of our hearts, pricking and enveloping us in ways the Spirit knows we need it most.

This Easter season, He knew that I needed to see the week leading to the death and resurrection of my Savior as if I had never seen of it before, with new eyes and a sensitive heart. I could not be more humbled to know a God who knows what I need before I even know what I need! What a Savior and what a friend.

May we all grow this upcoming summer to know Him more deeply and experience His grace more fully, with fresh eyes and softened hearts!

THE EMPTY TOMB BY ANDREW SMITH

Easter is always a great time where we can really look at the people around and be grateful for not only what Jesus did on the cross, but what He continues to do in our life each and everyday. My reflection on Easter consists really of two important things. One is that He is coming back, and two is that He is out of the tomb. In the first case, a man and I at the golf course the other were chatting about Easter and really what it means to both of us. He talked about the folded napkin in the tomb. He explained that

kings back in those days, when they were done with their food, would throw their napkin on their plate letting the servants know that they are done with their meal and they are not coming back to it. Jesus, when He left the tomb and rose from the grave, left a folded napkin on His clothes in the tomb. Therefore, Jesus, by folding His napkin, told the world that He is coming back and that He is not finished with His plate. Honestly, I just thought this was really cool and such a powerful thing to do. Secondly, the

tomb is now empty. A buddy and I were also chatting and we began to chat about how the tomb is empty and what that means for us. The tomb is empty, therefore we cannot live our life like He is still in the tomb. He is out and ready to move in each one of our lives. He has given us His Helper, the Holy Spirit, to live and breathe through us until He returns. Therefore, rest in the hope that He is coming again while knowing that He is out of the tomb ready to continue His work in each and every one of us!

Music Ministry at RBC

- Summer worship will begin on June 2nd. See the Calendar insert for more information.
- Stay tuned for information about a possible “Music at the Park” event later this Summer!

Children’s Ministry at RBC

- June 3—7 : In The Wild Vacation Bible School
- June 11th : 10 AM—12 PM - Scavenger Hunt at Victoria Bryant (1st—5th grades)
- June 13th : 5 PM—8PM - Parents’ Night Out (All Ages)
- June 18th : 8:30 AM—TBC - Greenville Zoo Trip (All Ages) ***
- June 25th : 10 AM—1 PM - Athens Botanical Gardens (All Ages) ***
- June 27th : 5 PM—8 PM - Parents’ Night Out (All Ages)
- July 2nd : 10 AM—1 PM - Goats on the Roof in Clayton, GA (All Ages) ***
- July 5th : Tiger Drive-In Movie in Clayton, GA (1st—5th Grades) ***
- July 9th : 10 AM—1 PM - Bear Hollow Zoo in Athens (All Ages) ***
- July 11th : 5 PM—8 PM - Parents’ Night Out (All Ages)
- July 16th : Summer Kids’ Wellness Park (Toddlers/Pre-K)
- July 20th : 10 AM—12 PM - RUSH in Athens (All Ages) ***
- July 23rd : Summer Kids’ Activity (All Ages)

*** ADULT HELP NEEDED

Youth Ministry at RBC

- June 12th : 6 PM—7:30 PM - Cookout at the Deals’ House
- June 23rd : 12:30 PM—5 PM - Boat Day in Hartwell
- July 15th—20th - Passport Camp
- July 28th : 5 PM—7:30 PM - Movie Night (Host Needed)

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IN THE CHRIS TILLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Come by the library to check out *The Masterpiece* by Francine Rivers. Two lost souls, bound by guilt to their pasts, discover that the very wounds which hold them captive can lead to the incredible grace needed to set them free. New York Times bestselling author Francine Rivers returns to her romance roots with this probing tale that reminds us that mercy can shape even the most broken among us into an imperfect yet stunning masterpiece.



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