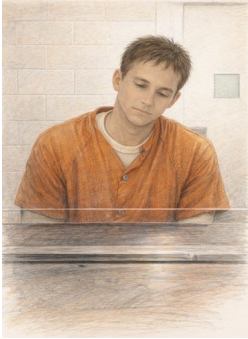


No Door Can Keep Him Out



This week, I sat across from someone who has been behind bars for months.



Easter came and went, and he didn't get to see his family. No crowded sanctuary. No familiar hymns. No Easter meal. Just another day... in a locked room.

We talked about that.

And somewhere in the middle of the conversation, I found myself telling him about Easter—not the version with flowers and full pews, but the one from John 20.

The first Easter didn't happen in a sanctuary. It happened in a locked room.

The disciples were afraid. The doors were shut. The world outside felt dangerous, uncertain, and overwhelming. So they did what people do when they're afraid—they locked the doors and stayed inside.

And then, somehow, Jesus came and stood among them. Not after they opened the door. Not once they got their courage back. Right there—in the middle of their fear, their confusion, their locked-down lives.

"Peace be with you." That's what I shared this week.

Because the truth is, we all know something about locked rooms. Some are physical. Some are emotional. Some are places we've ended up because of our own choices. Others are places life has put us. But all of us, at some point, know what it feels like to close the door and try to stay safe.

And Easter says this: Jesus is not waiting on the other side of the door for you to get it together.

He comes into the room.

He comes into the fear.

He comes into the regret.

He comes into the places that feel cut off and forgotten.

And when he does, he doesn't lead with shame or judgment.

He says, "Peace be with you."

That's the good news of Easter. Not just that the tomb is empty—but that no room is so locked, no life so confined, no situation so far gone that he cannot step into it.

I saw that this week in a jail.

And I believe we'll see it again today.

Worship and Praise Gathering

First Sunday after Easter
April 12, 2026

Liturgical Color: White
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rob Ray

Please register your attendance on the pads found in each pew.

Prelude

I'm Gonna Sing/Ain't-a That Good News

arr. Larry Shackley

piano

*Hymn

310

He Lives

Holy Baptism 11:00

Weston Edwards Gilbert

son of William and Molly Gilbert

God Claims You

Words on the screens

*Hymn

177

He Is Lord (sing twice)

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Anthem

Just a Little Talk with Jesus
The Sanctuary Choir

arr. Stan Pethel

*I once was lost in sin, but Jesus took me in;
And then a little light from heaven filled my soul.
It bathed my heart in love, and wrote my name above;
And just a little talk with Jesus made me whole.*

*Refrain - Now let us have a little talk with Jesus,
Tell Him all about our troubles,
Hear our faintest cry, and He will answer by and by.
Now when you feel a little prayer wheel turning,
You will know a little fire is burning.
You will find a little talk with Jesus makes it right.*

*Sometimes my path seems drear, without a ray of cheer;
And then a cloud of doubt may hide the light of day.
A mist of sin may rise, and hide the starry skies;
But just a little talk with Jesus clears the way. Refrain*

*I may have doubts and fears, my eyes be filled with tears;
But Jesus is a friend who watches day and night.
I go to Him in prayer, He knows my ev'ry care;
And just a little talk with Jesus makes it right. Refrain.*

*Doxology

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LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Scripture John 20:19–31
Sermon Locked Up Rev. Tom Carruth
Holy Communion (gluten free rice crackers given upon request)

Music During Communion

Sheep May Safely Graze Bach/Hustad
piano and organ duet

Abide, O Dearest Jesus arr. Paul Manz
organ

***Hymn** 347 *Spirit Song*

Reception of New Members 9:00 Tracy and Carolyn Hildenbrand

***Sending Forth with Blessing**

***Postlude** *He's Risen, He's Risen* arr. Kevin Hildebrand
organ

*Stand as able

Acolyte: Beckett Story 11:00
Crucifer: Jameson Applegate 11:00

A pre-school nursery is provided for children 6 weeks to 4 years old. Children's Church is provided at 11 a.m. for children 4 years of age through their completing first grade. An usher will be happy to assist you in finding these locations in the Education building.

Perry Methodist Church Staff:

Rev. Tom Carruth, Senior Pastor	Rob Ray, Assistant Pastor
Krissy Walker, Children's Pastor	Christie Rooks, Education Assistant
Nichole Lawson, Youth Pastor	Caroline Arnold, Youth Assistant
Katie Cawthon, Missions Coordinator	Dr. Jane Kimbrel, Director of Music Ministries
Mike Klug, Building Superintendent	Dr. Carol Goff, Collaborative Pianist
Kelley Sorrow, Financial Secretary	Tammara Shipes, Music Assistant
Emilee Sheffield, Office Manager	Alice Releford, Custodian
Dicky Gilbert, Audio	

Contact Us: P.O. Box 73, 1002 Carroll Street, Perry, GA 31069
Phone: 478-987-1852 Email: church@perrymethodist.com
Website: www.perrymethodist.com

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, April 12

4 p.m. - JOY Choir presents
"O What A Savior" in the
Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 13

12 p.m. - Moms Bible Study
12 p.m. - Methodist Women
5 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study in the
Brad Brady Conference Room

Tuesday, April 14

7 a.m. - Men's Prayer Fellowship
11 a.m. - JOY Choir Rehearsal
6 p.m. - Trustees Committee
Meeting in the Office Conference
Room
6 p.m. - Diving Deeper Women's
Bible Study in the Brad Brady
Conference Room

Wednesday, April 15

4 p.m. - Children's Led Worship
Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. - Youth Band Practice in
the
6:30 p.m. - Youth Worship and
Bible Study in the Youth Center
6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir
Rehearsal

Thursday, April 16

12 p.m. - Missions Committee
Meeting in the Missions Space
1 p.m. - Walking in the FLC

Friday, April 17

12 p.m. - Thee Lord's Table Meal
at Memorial Heights Baptist
Church
6 p.m. - Emmaus Reunion Dinner in
the Fellowship Hall

The J.O.Y Choir
(Just Older Youth)
is celebrating
40 years of singing!

Spring Musical
**O WHAT A
SAVIOR**
A Southern Style
Easter Celebration

Today, April 12 at 4:00 PM
Perry Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
Reception to Follow
Peach Cobbler will be served

Methodist Women
Monday, April 13
12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Bring a sandwich!
Our program will be
Mayor Randall Walker.
Bring an item for the Blessing box.
All women are invited to attend!



Our Mission team brought back delicious coffee from their trip to Honduras.

Come and get your own from the church office for **\$10 per bag.**

All proceeds will benefit the Honduras Mission Trip.

Cafe Raquel
Fresas Soutce Fresas
Fresas Piedad Beans
www.caferaquel.com