***Lenten Awakening***

**Lenten Worship Series – Easter**

***Easter People***

**March 31, 2024**

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**S  Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. Sermon manuscripts are included as a *sample* and not to be preached verbatim. |

[*On screen as people enter or printed in program*]

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| ***Easter People:***  ***They Bow…They Cling…They Adore*** |

***Easter People: They Bow*…**

**[The Gathering] [The Word]**

**Leader:**

***9****And they sang a new song, saying:*

*“You are worthy to take the scroll  
 and to open its seals,  
 because you were slain,  
 and with your blood you purchased for God  
 persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.* ***10****You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
 and they will reign on the earth.”*

***11****Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.****12****In a loud voice they were saying:*

*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
 to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength*

*and honor and glory and praise!”*

(Revelation 5:9-12, NIV)

**[The Response]**

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| **SB#358/HC#241/SS#30 – Crown him with many crowns** | TB-162 – Diademata  HC-241  SS-30 | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.)  HCD23-T11 |

**[The Gathering]**

**Call to Worship:**

What is it like to be the first humans to worship the resurrected Jesus? What shall they do, and how shall they do it? Without the obstruction of theological rationale or debate, they simply follow their deepest instinct and largest love—they bow, they cling, they adore.

And thus begins this lifetime journey for all the awakened Easter people. The Easter people: those who wake up every day to the reality of a resurrected Jesus, wherever they may be on their journey. Those whose lives will now be changed over a lifetime by the Jesus they remember and study, who now lives. Those awakened with eyes to see the resurrected Lord and ears to hear his voice and hearts to resonate more and more with his.

(*Lenten Awakening*, p. 206)

**[The Response]**

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| **SB#243/HC#164 – Before the throne of God above** | TB-52 – same  HC-164 | No HT CD  HCD15-T14 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#353/HC#49/SS#67 – Be still, for the presence of the Lord** | TB-566 – same  HC-49  SS-67 | No HT CD  HCD3-T19 |
| **SB#376/HC#219 – King of kings, majesty** | TB-722 – same  HC-219 | No HT CD  HCD20-T19 |
| **HC#94/SS#97 – Lamb of God** | HC-94  SS-97 | HCD8-T14 |
| **HC#123/SS#55 – Shine on Us** | HC-123  SS-55 | HCD11-T13 |
| **HC#128 – My Tribute** | HC-128 | HCD11-T18 |
| **HC#136 – We All Bow Down** | HC-136 | HCD12-T16 |

**Leader:**

***13*** *I charge you****14****to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,****15****which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,****16****who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.*

(1 Timothy 6:13b-16, NIV)

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| **SB#222 – He is Lord** | TB-649 – same | No HT CD |

**[The Response]**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**[The Word]**

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| **Children’s Moment – Resurrection Awakening** |

***Easter People: We Cling***

**[The Word]**

**Choral Reading:**

**Reader 1:** This first Easter day, the Christians’ new Sabbath, opens with a living Jesus—not a resuscitation, a resurrection! Jesus with an eternal body. The bonds of the grave are torn asunder and the burst of a new life emerges.

**Reader 2:** Having lived our earthly life with us for over thirty years and having tasted death for us, he brings to life a new thing, a first, a resurrection. He awakens not as he fell asleep in death; he awakens clothed with eternity.

**Reader 1:** We’ll follow the story. We’ll follow those disciples who obey and go to Galilee, to the place Jesus tells them to go.

**Reader 3:** ***16****Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.****17****When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.* (Matthew 28:16-17)

**Reader 1:** Like some of them, we may have doubts. But we still go looking to find him where he said he would be. He comes close to us because we take the risk of obedience and follow him.

**Reader 2:** The obedience may be slow in coming, owing to our own unreadiness at first, or our uncertainty, or our doubt. But then, sooner or later, a peace comes, and then an awakening. We’re now ready to meet our calling from Jesus:

**Reader 3:** ***19****Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,****20****and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* (Matthew 28:19-20)

**Reader 1:** This is the calling of every disciple of Jesus, every person who claims to be a Christian. Every follower of Jesus, in one way or another, follows him into the world, whether that world is as close as the neighbors on our street or as far away as the other side of the globe. We are all sent into the world to act like and speak for the living Christ.

**Reader 2:** We are Christ’s awakeners, called to lead the awakening wherever we live our lives. We heed the call:

**Reader 3:** *“Wake up, sleeper! Get up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”* (Ephesians 5:14b)

**Reader 1:** We are bearers of the light-revealing Light of the world. We are driven by the same question on the minds of the two women: “Where has Jesus gone?”

**Reader 2:** We, like they, really want to find the living Lord. We set out in faith, and on the way of our obedience he appears, and as we love him and worship him, the way before us begins to become clear. So does our calling as his awakeners.

**Reader 1:** Our lives, our words, become a wake-up call and an invitation to those we meet along the way. This is the fulfillment of our lives.

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 206-208)

**[The Word]**

**Message – Easter People**

***Easter People: They Adore***

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| **Drama – Adoration** |

**[The Response]**

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| **SB#201/HC#137/SS#66 – Thank you for the cross, Lord (Worthy Is the Lamb)** | TB-947 – same  HC-137  SS-66 | No HT CD  HCD12-T17 |

**[The Sending]**

**Benediction:**

***4*** *Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,****5****and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*

*To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,****6****and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*

(Revelation 1:4-6, NIV)

**[The Sending]**

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| (Reprise) **SB#201/HC#137/SS#66 – Thank you for the cross, Lord (Worthy Is the Lamb)** | TB-947 – same  HC-137  SS-66 | No HT CD  HCD12-T17 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#861/HC#149/SS#41 – In Christ alone** | TB-132 – same  HC-149  SS-41 | No HT CD  HCD13-T19 |
| **SB#218/HC#233/SS#181 – Christ the Lord is risen today** | TB-248 – Easter Hymn  HC-233  SS-181 | HTD3-T9 (4 vs.)  HCD22-T13 |
| **SB#89/HC#161/SS#48 – O for a thousand tongues to sing (My Great Redeemer’s Praise)** | TB-57 – Azmon  TB-75 – Grimsby  HC-161  SS-48 | HTD3-T4 (4 vs.)  No HT CD  HCD15-T11 |
| **HC#128 – My Tribute** | HC-128 | HCD11-T18 |
| **SB#358/HC#241/SS#30 – Crown Him with many crowns** | TB-162 – Diademata  HC-241  SS-30 | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.)  HCD23-T11 |
| **SB#241 – And can it be** | TB-445 – Sagina | HTD4-T13 (4 vs.) |

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| **Lent 2024 – Easter** | |
| **DRAMA**  **Adoration**  **By Martyn Scott Thomas**  © Copyright 2023 by Martyn Scott Thomas. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | |
| **Topic:** | Praise |
| **Scripture:** | Revelation 1:5-6; 4:8, 11; 5:12-13; 21:3-4 |
| **Synopsis:** | Four readers give honor and praise to God. |
| **Characters:** | Reader 1  Reader 2  Reader 3  Reader 4 |
| **Props/Costumes:** | None. |
| **Setting:** | Bare stage. |
| **Running time:** | 2 minutes |

[*Readers are standing throughout the congregation. All lines should be proclaimed loudly.*]

**Reader 1:** All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us.

**Reader 2:** He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

**Reader 3:** Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—  
the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come.

**Reader 4:** You are worthy, O Lord our God,  
to receive glory and honor and power.  
For you created all things,  
and they exist because you created what you pleased.

**Reader 1:** Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—  
to receive power and riches  
and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and blessing.

**Reader 2:** Blessing and honor and glory and power  
belong to the one sitting on the throne  
and to the Lamb forever and ever.

**Reader 3:** Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

**Reader 4:** He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.

**All:** Worthy is the Lamb!

[*Blackout*]

***Lenten Awakening***

**Children’s Moment – Easter Sunday**

***Resurrection Awakening***

**March 31, 2024**

**By Katie Laidlaw**

**Synopsis:** *Lenten Awakening* series focuses on the life and teaching of Jesus in such a way to awaken us and encourage us to see ourselves through his eyes. Superhero, “The Awakening,” introduces each week’s topic to children.

**Costume:** Superhero cape, mask, etc. (anything to look like a superhero).

**Intro/Outro:** Play superhero-type music as “The Awakening” enters and exits. *For Superhero Royalty-Free Music, go to:* <https://www.storyblocks.com/audio/search/superhero?sort=most_relevant>

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| **Easter Sunday – Resurrection Awakening** |

[*Play intro superhero music as you enter the chapel. Invite children to come to the front, having them stand for the lesson.* (Standing keeps the children attentive, engaged and involved in the lesson as the congregation “watches them.” Sitting creates a more relaxed/informal mindset, allowing children to potentially disengage.)]

**Script:**

Good morning, kids! It is I, *The Awakening*, and I have a question for you. Now, even though you know that I am a superhero, we’re going to pretend that I am not, okay? So let’s imagine that a *real* superhero smashes through the ceiling in our chapel right now, and lands on the floor right in front of you. What is your reaction? [*Allow children to respond*] What would you say? [*Allow children to respond*] Raise your hand if you would be excited. Raise your hand if you would be nervous. How about if you wanted to know what was going on?

Jesus died on the cross, right? We think about that happening on Good Friday. And then early on Sunday morning only a few days later, women go to visit his grave, and they discover Jesus’ body is gone! Disappeared! They had gone to his grave to put some spices and good-smelling stuff in the grave because they wanted to take care of his body and honor him. But the body was gone!

The women knew that there was a giant stone in front of the grave’s opening, and that it would take a lot of people to move that stone for someone to get in or out. But the stone was moved! It’s kind of like someone came in and smashed through the ceiling! So these women wanted to know what happened. As they ran to see it, they wanted to know what was going on! But then it dawned on them that Jesus had been raised from the dead. How awesome is that?!

The past several weeks we have been talking about what Jesus can do in our lives. He can give us peace, he can give us joy, and we can be friends with him. But today, we see that with the power of Jesus in our lives, we can learn what we can do something for Jesus. Do you want to know what it is? We can tell others about him.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:19 (NIRV):

*19 So you must go and make disciples of all nations.*

In other words, you must go—*run, walk, skip or jump*—and make disciples—which means telling other people how to find his joy, his peace and love, so that they can be friends with Jesus, too.

I don’t know about you, but being friends with Jesus is my favorite part of life. I don’t think I would have made it this far in life without being friends with Jesus.

So today, on this powerful day of Easter when Jesus conquered death—better than any superhero or power—Jesus conquered death for us so that we would know his love and forgiveness. We should tell everyone about it, shouldn’t we?

Let’s pray:

*Dear Lord,*

*I thank you for your power and for your love. You are better than anything we know on this earth. Thank you for wanting to save us through your love and sacrifice. Help us to be excited about telling others about you. We love and thank you, in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

This is my last time with you, so I wish you a very Happy Easter!

[*Play outro superhero music as children go back to their seats and you leave the chapel.*]

***Lenten Awakening***

**Lenten Sermon – Easter**

***Easter People***

**March 31, 2024**

**By Major Peter Mount**

**TITLE: Easter People**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:16-20**

**INTRODUCTION:** Throughout the season of Lent we've been looking at the idea of “Lenten Awakening”—about what it means to come alive and to see what God is doing in our presence!

On Good Friday, we talked about it being the most Horrible—yet Beautiful—day. Today we get to celebrate! We get to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ! As we consider Matthew 28:16-20, we are going to be awakened to the practical nature of what the resurrection means for you and for me.

What does it mean to be awakened to the power of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to be awakened to His presence, not just in a story that was told so long ago, but for us as individuals here today. This is not only an event that we remember once a year as a tradition, but it’s an event that changed the course of human history! The reason why we're here today is because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is why we celebrate Easter.

**EASTER PEOPLE**: **So what does it mean to be “Easter People?”**

To be Easter people does not mean that we only get to be Easter people on Easter Sunday! We should be Easter people every single day in the same way that we should be Christmas people every single day. We need to celebrate the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus and the difference He has made in the world and in our own lives through forgiveness, hope, grace and mercy.

You may have already noticed these words throughout our service today: **Bow, Cling, and Adore**. To be Easter people is to participate in all of these aspects.

Let’s look at the Great Commission that Jesus left with us. Matthew 28:16 (NIV):

***16*** *Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.*

Let’s stop right there for a second. **Did you notice the *obedience* of the 11 disciples?** The disciples are obedient to the risen Jesus!

What does verse 17 say?

***17****When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.*

**A. WE BOW**

[*Share an illustration about a close relationship you have and how it is important to spend time with that person to get to know them better.*]

The disciples knew they were in the presence of Jesus.

1. Recognized Jesus
   * + - 1. When the disciples saw Jesus, they recognized Him. They recognized the resurrected Jesus because they had a relationship with Him and knew Jesus.
2. Their response was worship:
   * + - 1. Look at their response: they were awakened to His presence, and they worshipped Him.
         2. Often in scripture when we see this reference to worship it almost always involves some type of kneeling or bowing, whether in a Christian context or to a secular king. The disciples’ response to seeing the risen Jesus was to bow before Him in worship.

**What does your worship look like?**

**B. WE CLING**

So often we skip the second half of verse 17 – *“but some doubted.”*

The 11 disciples had spent three and a half years spending time with Jesus and seeing miracles, yet still some of them doubted when they saw Jesus.

In our own lives events take place that cause us to doubt and worry. That is when we can cling to Jesus!

Situations occur and we struggle because our faith may not be as strong as we want it to be. Friends, I don't want you to beat yourself up about it because I see 11 disciples here, and some of them doubted! They had seen Jesus crucified and buried, and some doubted that Jesus truly had risen. They were clinging to hope and faith and Jesus showed up and honored that faith by revealing Himself to them, sharing this great commission of power and direction.

***18****Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.****19****Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,****20****and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

Easter people are people who cling—not to Jesus, but—to His promises, His power and His words. They are awakened again to who He is and all that He can do in and through each of us because He is always with us!

**C. WE ADORE**

Because we bow and worship, clinging to His promises, power and word, we adore Him for who He is. We adore Him—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—for all he has done, is doing and will do in and through us.

How do you need to respond to Jesus on this Easter Sunday?

1. Do you adore Jesus? – Better yet, do you even know Jesus and have you experienced His life-changing presence in your life? If not, this morning is the time to accept and respond to the fact that you need a Savior. You need a Savior to forgive you of your sins (all that you have done wrong) and to receive the forgiveness that only Jesus can bring through His death and resurrection on the cross, giving us life, hope and a future.
2. If you already know Jesus, are you worshipping Him with everything? Are you worshipping Him throughout the week just as much as you are on Sunday for an hour or so?
3. Are you struggling with your faith today? Bring to Jesus your concerns and cling to His promises that He is here, waiting for you to connect with Him once again. You are not alone.

**Wherever you find yourself this morning, and however you need to respond, Jesus is waiting and calling for you to be true Easter people in Him.**