

OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION

APRIL 11, 2021

Prelude

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

Welcome

***Call to Worship - Psalm 96**

~God's invitation for us to engage in worship in the Holy Spirit

***Weekly Congregational Response**

~Our humble response to God's call to worship

***Prayer of Invocation**

~The giving of thanks for God's promised presence and work among us

***Song of Preparation and Praise - Praise to the Lord**

~Our celebration of God as our good and faithful Abba Father

***Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12**

~Our admission of our failures and need for Christ as Savior

***Prayer in Response to Our Assurance of Pardon**

***Song of Comfort - In Christ Alone**

~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

Pastoral Prayer - Jim Whittle, Equipping Leaders International and David Gilbert, Grace Presbyterian Church, Douglasville

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

Sermon - The Ascended King Empowers His Witnesses Luke 24:36-53

***Song of Response - Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor**

~Our commitment to apply God's Word in and through our lives

***Announcements**

~Weekly opportunities to live out the Word read, confessed, prayed, sung, and preached

***Benediction - Ephesians 1:17-20**

~God's parting blessing as we are sent out on His redemptive mission

*Stand

"THE ASCENDED KING EMPOWERS HIS WITNESSES"

LUKE 24:36-53

Key Truth: Because Jesus is the ascended King, He empowers us with the Holy Spirit so that we get to become His joyful and hopeful witnesses until He returns.

Introduction:

Q: Are you more cynical or hopeful about the future? Are you more angry or joyful in the present?

Luke 24:36-49: The Ascended King Empowers Us with the Holy Spirit

Q: Which way do you run when you experience doubt? Which way do you run when someone else experiences doubt?

"Only the living Christ Himself was able to conquer the fear, perplexity and doubt of His disciples and to prepare them to enter the world as preachers of the glad tidings. And in like manner to-day it is only the risen Saviour Himself who can banish all fear from our hearts, and give us the inward rest and peace to enable us to act as living witnesses of our living Redeemer. And all the spiritual equipment that we need, He gives us through the Spirit, already given to His church in His fullness on that first Pentecost and to every believer in the moment of regeneration."

Norval Geldenhuys, Commentary on the Gospel of Luke

Luke 24:50-53: The Ascended King Gives Us Hope and Joy

Q: In what ways do you try to pin your hope and joy on something other than Christ?

"The return of Christ is the next great redemptive moment on the divine calendar. Whatever God may do between now and then does not form the horizon on which we are to fix our gaze. No, the Ascension teaches us to keep our eyes fixed heavenwards. To be looking not so much to 'signs of the times', or even to the end of our own lives, but rather to 'the future of the Lord'. For the next great event on God's calendar is the return of Jesus. We are called to focus on him!"

**Sinclair B. Ferguson and Derek W. H. Thomas,
Ichthus: Jesus Christ, God's Son, the Saviour**

Application:

Luke 24:36-53 teaches us that we get to:

-Become Christ's joyful and hopeful witnesses who are empowered with the Holy Spirit

Benediction: Ephesians 1:17-20