



SUNDAY SERMON

RECAP

5 April 2026

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Sermon Notes

Sermon Title: Resurrection Hope

Pastor: Bruce Taylor

Key Scripture: John 20 & 21

Introduction

Illustration of a page inserted into a book. If the book is couriered to Cape Town, the inserted page will arrive in CT too.

We are in Christ!

When Jesus was crucified on the cross, we were crucified with Him. When He was buried, we were buried with Him (our old sin nature buried). When Jesus rose from the grave, we rose with Him in newness of life.

Romans 6:4 (NIV)

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.**

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV)

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

On Good Friday we remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and how He shed his blood to atone for our sins. In love, He laid down His life for us, so that our relationship with the Father could be restored. The veil was torn in two and we have access to the Father.

The great exchange took place. Our sins were placed on Him. And His righteousness was placed on us. The greatest exchange in the history of the world.

But the story didn't end there. Jesus rose from the dead. Victorious over sin and death. And because of this we can live with Resurrection Hope!



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“Because He lives” that confirms this truth. Let me read you the first verse and the chorus.

Verse 1

God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus; He came to love, heal and forgive; He lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Chorus Because He lives, I can face tomorrow! Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because He lives!

Christ’s resurrection gives us hope! He is alive. He dwells within us by His Spirit. And He holds our future in His hands.

When Jesus rose from the grave He met with people who were in a place of despair. A place where they had lost hope. But when Jesus met them they were transformed! Hope was restored!

1. From tears to joy.

John 20:11-18 (NKJV)

Mary’s grief was real, and it was deep. Jesus had delivered her of 7 demons. He had set her free. And He had offered her a new life. After that, her whole life revolved around Him. She followed Him wherever He went. Wherever He ministered.

When He was crucified, she was there. When He was placed in the tomb, she was there. And we find her at the tomb early on the Sunday morning, weeping. Her grief at his passing compounded by the fact that His body was missing.

It is normal to cry when we experience loss. We grieve because we love.

Quote: “Always remember that each person you see in the congregation sits next to his or her own pool of tears.”

But Jesus meets with her, and she encounters His resurrection love. He calls her by her name, Mary! And in an instant her tears were transformed into joy. Her Saviour and Lord was alive.

If there are tears in your life, our risen Lord Jesus is ready to meet with you, call you by name, and assure you of His presence, so that joy can return to your heart.





2. From fear to peace

John 20:19-22 (NKJV)

There is so much happening in our world today. So many things that can cause us to fear. In the time of Jesus, Rome governed the land, a self-focused and corrupt regime. People lived in fear. In today's world we have many governments that are self-focused and corrupt, with people living in fear.

In those days it wasn't safe to believe in Jesus. The Jewish leaders had persecuted Him, and had Him killed. And His followers were filled with fear. In our world today, persecution against those who believe in Jesus has exponentially increased. You can believe in anything and be celebrated ... except in Jesus.

When we face trials of many kinds, it is easy to become afraid. It is tempting to hide. Especially if we forget that Jesus has risen from the grave, and that all authority has been given to Him. (See Matthew 28:18-19 (NKJV))

If we put ourselves in the disciples shoes, I think we can understand their fear. When Jesus was with them, they were invincible. He stood up to the Pharisees. He was not afraid of Rome.

But he was no longer with them. He had been crucified and buried, and all hope was gone. They had forgotten that He told them, that He would rise again.

There are many things that can scare us in life. There are many things that can overwhelm us and cause us to despair. Especially if we forget that our Lord is risen and is with us, no matter what we are going through.

Everything changed for the disciples when Jesus met with them, and breathed on them, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Fear left, peace came!

I asked Pam earlier this week what comes to mind if I mention Resurrection Hope. And she answered with 4 words. "I don't live alone." Having Christ live inside of us by His Spirit makes all the difference. We are not alone!

Colossians 1:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me**. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

John 14:27 (NIV)

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give you**. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.



3. From despair to hope.

John 21:15-25 (NKJV)

Jesus seeks out Peter and restores Him.

The Bible tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, so in some way, we can all relate to Peter. Peter's despair was a result of guilt and shame. He had denied the Lord. And in his despair he had returned to his fishing boat.

For three years he had followed Jesus. He heard him teach about the Kingdom of God. He saw Him perform countless miracles. He witnessed the transfiguration. He was one of the three who were part of Jesus's inner circle. He was there when Jesus was filled with anguish in the Garden. Peter was even Jesus's self-appointed protector.

Yet He had denied knowing Him, just as Jesus had predicted.

For Peter, hope was gone! In his own mind he was beyond saving, let alone of any further service for the Lord.

But Jesus didn't believe that. He found Peter, restored him, and commissioned him.

There is resurrection hope for us, no matter what we have done, or what we are struggling with. Resurrection hope if we meet with the risen Lord, and put our faith in Him.

Story of Stan the alcoholic who was struggling with alcohol. Pastor was called by his wife to talk to him.

Stan, when you accepted Christ, which Jesus did you believe in? Did you have in mind an honourable man who lived 2000 years ago and died on a cross? Stan, did you accept Jesus the man? Or did you accept Jesus Christ the God who became a man and was raised from the dead? The Lord Jesus who is alive today and offers his life to you?

Stan replied that he had put his faith in Jesus the man. The pastor asked if he was willing to put his trust in Jesus the living God. Stan said he was, and he was delivered from alcoholism that very night.

Stan's marriage was restored, and he and his wife often shared their testimony of how the Lord transformed them from despair to hope, telling others how God had "restored the years the locusts had eaten."

Their marriage became a living example of the book's core message: that Christ's life in a person can do what religious effort cannot.

Christ in us, the hope of glory!

