



April 4, 2021



*At Kernstown, we make Disciples as we:
Know God
Grow in God
Sow God into the World*

**3239 Valley Pike, Winchester, Virginia 22602
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**Pastor Aaron Fitch 540-532-9493
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bold print = all respond

EASTER
April 4, 2021

IN-PERSON SERVICE – 11:00 a.m.

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

David Landrum

Lighting of Altar Candles

Greeting

Pastor Aaron Fitch

Call to Worship

Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

UMH 302

Psalms for Lent

Easter – Psalm 118

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Pastor Aaron

Special Music

Glory of the Cross Medley

David Landrum

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Aaron

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18 (New Testament)

Easter Upside Down video

Peter

Sermon

"Marvelling At What You See"

Pastor Aaron

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

He Lives

UMH 310

The Benediction

Pastor Aaron

Postlude

David Landrum

Dismissal

Service is over, and our Mission begins!

ONLINE SERVICE – 10:20 a.m.

Greeting / Announcements	<i>(live stream)</i>	Pastor Aaron
Prelude		David Landrum
Call to Worship		David Landrum
Hymn	<i>Christ the Lord Is Risen Today</i>	UMH 302
Psalms for Lent		<i>Easter – Psalm 118</i>
Special Music	<i>Christ is Risen</i>	KUMC Youth
Prayer of Confession		Cathy Richard
Words of Assurance		Pastor Aaron
Special Music	<i>Glory of the Cross Medley</i>	David Landrum
Prayer for Illumination		Sandy Dunkle
Scripture Reading	<i>John 20:1-18 (New Testament)</i>	
Easter Upside Down video		<i>Peter</i>
Sermon	<i>"Marvelling At What You See"</i>	Pastor Aaron
Pastoral Prayer		
Lord's Prayer		UMH 895 / Donna Funk-Smith
Apostles' Creed		UMH 881 / Newcome family
Hymn	<i>He Lives</i>	UMH 310
The Benediction		Pastor Aaron
Postlude		David Landrum
Dismissal		Service is over, and our Mission begins!

Be faithful in prayer - Romans 12:12 NIV

WINCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER:

CARE FACILITIES:

Consulate Health Care: Connie Mitchell (PA)

Spring Arbor: Marietta Lipscomb (#239)

Mount Vernon Nursing Center: Virginia Ebbs

Search Group Home: Steven Dobbins

Sunrise at Bon Air: Irene Gates (#205)

Orchard Woods: Phyllis Baker

Lynn Care: Rosalie Wehn (Mimi's grandmother)

UPCOMING SURGERIES: Marcy Cormier – cataracts on April 6

SYMPATHY: Long/Ruckman families; Shirley Dick & family; Walker/Richards families; Tisinger/Chapman families; Ruth Bennington & family; Perry/Martin family; Bill Tharpe & family

MILITARY: CPO Tiffany McMahan; MMN3 Seth Anton; LTC Tom Crowley; Jared Castro, ROTC

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: Pastor Aaron, Cooper, & Elise; Leathia Conrow; Pastor Clay Knick – lymphoma; Hannah Henshaw; Margo Cross; Margaret DeMayo; the Wilsons; the Gordons; the Burchards; Marshall Carper; Lloyd Henry; Judy Allen; Jeanne Newlin & Janie Slater; Peggy Gillich; Polly Look & family

Missionaries: Gregg & Jayne Yarian; Pastor Michael & Lupe Geiss

Local Missions: VAN (Valley Assistance Network), The Winchester Rescue Mission, Lord Fairfax Food Bank, C-CAP

At Home: Bryan Hartley, Pat Price, Jean Snider, Mary Kathryn Clark, Tina Weagley, Florence Roman

Weekly Prayer Requests

March 28

Marshall Carper; Bill Tharpe & family; Lisa Dawson; Peggy Gillich – lung cancer diagnosis; Lawrence, who is homeless; Rich Lichvar; Simone Poulin (Danny Aube's aunt); praise for Helen Fitch & Steve Spurr both getting good reports at the heart doctor

March 21

Katie Teets; Loretta (Marcy Cormier's sister); Paul Rinker; Polly Look – cataracts surgery; Pastor Phil Brumback; all the pastors who are packing and preparing to move; Beverley (the Markleys' daughter)

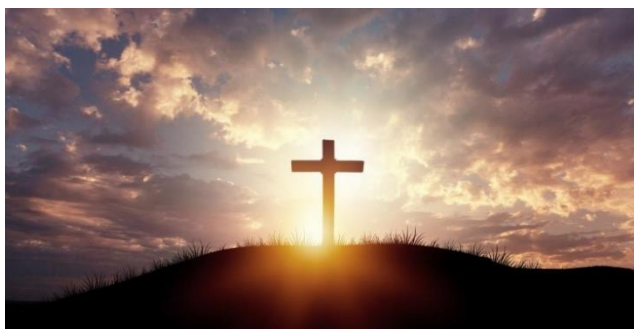
March 14

Darlene Beaune; Connie Sine; Robert Crowe; Helen Weir (the Wilsons' cousin); family of Lewis Hitt; Mary Walker (Nellie Snoots' sister); Chris Dolsen; Pusateri family on the loss of their 15-year-old son; David Donohoe (Charlie's son); Carolyn Carney's best friend; unspoken prayer requests; family of Evelyn Perry

March 7

Janie Slater; Maria Castro; Helen Fitch; Julia & family; Frank Moore; Hayley Moore; Evelyn Jennings; family of Carter Cooper (Barbara Cooper's brother-in-law); Donivan "Donnie" Wilson; the Lichvars & pup, Angel; Lawton MacDonald; family of Edward Shryock (Ms. Audrey's nephew); George & Sharon Teets; Adele Birnbaum; Betty Lou Langager; Christopher Pearson; Linda Nesmith (Ric Dunkle's sister); Gene Renner, Jr. (Edna's son)

***If you would like for us to lift up a prayer request, please call the office at 540-667-7298 or email us at, csteele@kernstownumc.org. We also have prayer request slips in the pews you can fill out and place in the offering plate. These names will remain on this list for four weeks.*



Announcements

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED – The church office will be closed on Monday, April 5, in observance of Easter.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP – Starting this week, you no longer need to register with the church office to attend in-person worship on Sunday mornings – just show up! All other guidelines that we are required by the Virginia Conference to follow remain in place at this time: you must wear your mask at all times while in the church building, plan to affirm your health at the door with the entry greeter, the seating usher will seat you, no singing (but hopefully soon!), and always practice social distancing. We also plan to resume communion on the first Sundays, using pre-packaged communion cups. See you in church!

ONLINE WORSHIP – Starting on Sunday, April 18, the online worship service will be a live-stream of the 11am in-person worship service, and not the pre-recorded service.

IN-PERSON COMMITTEE MEETINGS - As of April 1, 2021, Kernstown UMC will be open for church committees to meet in-person in the fellowship hall. The Committee Chair will need to contact the church office in advance to reserve their date/time in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. For the meeting, each committee will be responsible for setting up the fellowship hall with proper social distancing and for sanitizing the space after the meeting. As with worship services, masks must be worn at all times while in the church building and attendees will have to affirm their health per the Health Poster upon arrival. We *cannot* use the kitchen, and *no food* may be brought in or consumed during meetings. At this time, Sunday School classes will *not* be permitted to meet on *Sunday mornings*, but those classes and other KUMC small groups will be permitted to meet during the week in the fellowship hall – just call the church office to reserve your date/time. If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Shelton, chair of the Healthy Church Team, at 540-771-8301 or lorraineshelton0566@gmail.com.

SPPRC MEETING – SPPRC will meet on Thursday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

UMW MEETING – The United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday, April 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

MEN'S CORE GROUP MEETING – The next meeting of the Men's Core Group will be on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – Church Council will meet on Thursday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Submissions for our May newsletter are due on Monday, April 19, at 12 noon.

DISTRICT UMW UMCOR PROJECT – The UMW are sponsoring UMCOR **School Kits** and **Hygiene Kits** during March, April, and May. The list of items required for each type of kit was included in the April newsletter. Bring your items and/or completed kits to the church – there is a box in the mission room.

WANTED: KUMC OCC PROJECT LEADER -

We are looking for someone to be the OCC Project Leader for Kernstown UMC congregation. The Project Leader will plan, promote, facilitate, and coordinate the collection of shoebox gifts throughout the year among the KUMC congregation. Interested in learning more? There is a short video from Samaritan's Purse on our website, told from the perspective of current or past project leaders! If you feel a calling to spearhead this project for our church, please contact **Bob Greatorex (540-662-3137 or greatorex@yahoo.com)**.



OCC YEAR-ROUND COLLECTION ITEMS – The collection item for April is "stuffed animals." Bring your items to the church – there is a collection box by the choir loft in the sanctuary.



Stuffed Animals

April

CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

April 4 through April 11

He is RISEN! Alleluia!

Sunday, April 4 - Easter

10:20 a.m. Worship (online)

11:00 a.m. Worship (in-person, Sanctuary)



Monday, April 5

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, April 7

1:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer with Pastor (Live Stream)

Thursday, April 8

9:00 a.m. Staff meeting (ZOOM)

7:00 p.m. SPPRC meeting (in-person, FH)

Sunday, April 11

10:20 a.m. Worship (online)

11:00 a.m. Worship (in-person, Sanctuary)



SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF April 4th:

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2 & 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
and John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

Prayers
April 4, 2021

Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia!

The tomb is empty!

Alleluia!

Christ is alive!

Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

God of life and love, like Peter, we gaze into the empty tomb and see only death. Like Mary, we stand weeping over loss. We so often feel hopeless. We don't recognize any possibility for joy. Surprise us with Your work in the world. May we dry our tears, as we dance into new life. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The risen Jesus offers forgiveness of sins through His Name. Rejoice, Jesus gives you new life!

Prayer for Illumination

God of grace, we come today to hear the story of Easter. Open our hearts, that we might hear Your Truth anew. Be with us on the journey that leads to life and hope. Amen.

The Benediction

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

E A S T E R UPSIDE DOWN

skitguysstudios

Peter:

Marvelling At What You See

Luke 24:1-12, John 20:3-10

Significant moments in life happen in such ways that when we return to the places where they occurred, it can cause us to marvel. We marvel at moments when we return to the places where:

- The proposal happened, and she said, “Yes!”
- The championship game was won.
- The first place we called home.
- First steps were taken.
- The crash occurred.
- The accident happened.
- The first kiss took place.
- The last good-bye happened.
- We led our friend to the Lord.
- We watched her baptism.
- We celebrated his life.

Perhaps a place is so special that your family returns to it year after year to vacation. Upon arrival, memories begin to flood the mind that enable you to see the times when:

- Family and friends laughed and played together.
- Decisions about life were decided.
- Meals were enjoyed.
- New additions to the family were experiencing the place for the first time.

What are those moments in your life that are connected to a place that causes you not just to remember but to marvel at what occurred at that place? What do you see in your mind’s eye today when you look back to those places in your past where something significant happened?

It’s not difficult to imagine the Apostle Peter experiencing this phenomenon in his life as he reflected on what had occurred over the Passover weekend with Jesus and the other disciples.

- The Last Supper in the Upper Room where Jesus washed all their feet.

- Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane where all but Jesus fell asleep.
- Betrayal by Judas with a kiss.
- An arrest coupled with the chaos, struggle, and slashing off an ear that was silenced for a moment by a healing touch from Jesus before He was moved into the night.
- False accusations and secret trials by the religious elite.
- Denying even knowing Jesus not once...not twice...but three times, all remained in the memory of Peter as he warmed himself by the fire where he tried to eavesdrop on what was happening to Jesus.
- The rooster crowed, tears from Peter flowed, guilt consumed his heart and mind as Jesus was led away to be beaten, whipped, mocked, and crucified after carrying His cross through the Via Dolorosa up to Golgotha.

What Peter saw was unforgettable and turned his world upside-down. He and the others holed up together and tried to lay low over the Passover weekend so as not to be noticed by the ones in power who had done all this to Jesus. Peter and the others huddled and kept their heads down, sitting in stunned silence as the Sabbath came and went. He stewed in his thoughts, wondering what in the world had unfolded.

Then came the news from the women that nobody was expecting to hear: “Jesus wasn’t in the tomb. He had risen.” And Peter took off to see for himself. While all four gospels record that glorious morning when everything that had been turned upside-down got put right-side up because of the resurrection, Luke’s gospel account has a special detail for us to connect with today. Let’s remember the fullness of the first Easter Sunday morning before then engaging with that detail from Peter’s Easter Upside-down experience. Luke 24:1-12 recounts the scene.

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. **2** And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. **5** And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? **6** He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” **8** And they remembered his words,**9** and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. **10** Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, **11** but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. **12** But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.” Luke 24:1-12

Peter never would forget what he saw on that morning at the empty tomb. In fact, it is reasonable to believe that what we saw portrayed in the video is what Peter may have continued to process concerning Jesus after His resurrection and appearances with Jesus. Don’t miss the special detail that Luke conveys to his readers at the end of verse 12 about Peter. After he went to the tomb and saw what was inside, “he went home marveling at what had happened.” Luke 24:12

Peter went home, marveling. The word in Greek is *thaumazon* and means “to wonder,” “to be in awe over and think deeply about what just occurred,” or “to continue ruminating on with awe regarding what was experienced in order to try and make sense.” Peter, like Jesus, and like most Jews of that time, had traveled to Jerusalem all their lives to celebrate the feast of Passover. Peter likely had a keen sense of the hills and valleys around Jerusalem. This was the great city that had been part of his life, and all the Jews lives for as long as they could remember. But once those memorable moments happened with Jesus in those places like the Temple, the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Via Doloroso, and Golgotha, it’s reasonable to believe Peter could not “unsee” what he saw and experienced in those particular places. And he marveled. He continued to be in awe and think deeply about what just occurred. He continued ruminating on those events and conversations and moments with Jesus as he tried to make sense of what it all meant.

Even though Jesus had been telling His followers that He was going to suffer and die and then rise again while He walked and lived with them up until Good Friday, nobody expected the empty tomb to happen and the resurrection to take place at that moment. If they were expecting a resurrection on Easter, then why did the women go to the tomb with spices on Sunday morning to complete the rushed burial that had taken place before sundown as the Sabbath approached on Friday evening? It’s not like they were hoping Jesus would be alive on that Sunday as the sun came up, but they brought the spices just in case. No. Everybody, including the disciples and Jesus’ other followers, thought the dead Jesus who was placed in the tomb on Good Friday would still be...DEAD on Sunday!

When the women came back from the empty tomb after hearing what the angels said to them and tried to relay this good news to the rest of the disciples, they were dismissed as being overly dramatic, emotional, and as ones suffering from something akin to the delirious effects of a fever. Notice again how Luke describes the unforgettable scene in verses 10-11.

“**10** Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, **11** but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.” Luke 24:10-11

Again, nobody was expecting Jesus to get up from the death mat in resurrection victory on Easter Sunday. All the disciples and followers who were together at that time thought their world still was turned upside-down from the horrid crucifixion on Friday. Even though Jesus had been telling them since Luke 9:22 onwards about His coming resurrection after suffering and death, they still were stuck. N.T. Wright notes, “They were puzzled, and understandably so; ‘resurrection,’ in that world, was what God would do in the end for all the righteous dead, giving new embodiment to everyone from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob down to the most recent righteous martyrs... ‘The resurrection’ itself would be a large-scale event. After Israel’s great and final suffering, all God’s people would be given new life, new bodies.” This was what they thought as first-century Jews. Thus, it should not surprise us to see how they responded to the women who returned from the empty tomb. They didn’t believe them and thought they were making up a crazy story that most likely stemmed from the PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) they likely were dealing with after seeing Jesus go through what He went through on the cross.

But something triggered inside of Peter; when he heard the update from the women, he had to make his way to the tomb to see for himself. What he witnessed caused him to “marvel.”

“But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.” Luke 24:12

He had to see it for himself. John’s gospel shares this scene from a slightly different perspective in chapter 20:3-10.

“**3** So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. **4** Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, **7** and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **9** for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. **10** Then the disciples went back to their homes.” John 20:3-10

Peter left the empty tomb that day, not fully understanding the Scripture regarding Jesus’ prophesied resurrection...yet. He went back home. And as he went home that morning, coupled with the coming weeks after that first Easter Sunday, Peter continued to marvel at what he had seen in those places.

Thaumazon. He kept turning over in his mind what he had experienced in those moments while trying to make sense of what it all meant. As he played it repeatedly in his head and perhaps passed by those significant places previously mentioned, it is likely that the dark picture in the upside-down frame slowly gained light as it was turned right-side-up with understanding, clarity, and perspective.

Sometimes it takes a little while for us to make heads or tails out of events that seem to turn our lives upside-down. Sometimes it may not ever become crystal clear and totally right-side up this side of heaven.

Those significant moments that happen in life that we wonder about, such as when:

- The proposal happened, and she said, “No.”
- The championship game was won...but later forfeited.
- The first place we called home was also where the divorce eventually happened.
- A stinging comment was posted that was untrue but gained traction and ended up changing the narrative that everybody ended up believing was the truth.

Sometimes those moments happen in significant places that mark us with difficulty, defeat, and despair. But God has a way of meeting us in those moments and walking us out of the valley of the shadow of death into a place where a new day with new hope and new beginnings are waiting for us to be experienced.

In order to experience resurrection, first, a death must occur. If you have experienced an upside-down event in your life that left you feeling like you were in the grave, take heart; we worship a Savior who not only can relate but also has defeated sin, death, Satan, and hell.

Easter is a time when we need to marvel at what we see. Charles Swindoll notes the importance of what Peter and John saw when they went to the tomb that first Easter. He referenced the previously mentioned passage from John 20:3-10. (see above for references within the following quote for textual context)

As John wrote of his experience with Peter at the tomb, he used three distinct words to describe how the two men “saw.” When John arrived, he stopped at the entrance of the tomb and looked inside. He used the Greek word *blepo*, which simply means to notice something without thinking about it. It describes a kind of observation that is accurate yet causal. A good example of this would be when a driver sees a red light at an intersection. He or she sees the light and then stops without giving it further thought. John saw the grave clothes and recognized them for what they were, but he didn’t consider the implications.

Peter, on the other hand, ran straight into the tomb without stopping and “saw” the linen wrappings differently. John used *theoreo*, from which we derive the English word theory. Unlike John, Peter not only observed the grave clothes, but he studied them for clues and tried to comprehend what might have happened.

Why should the condition of the grave clothes excite Peter’s amazement? [Merrill C. Tenny in his book The Reality of the Resurrection writes:]

There’s a strong hint that the clothes were not folded as if Jesus had unwound them and then deposited them in two neat piles on the shelf. The word used to describe the napkin or headcloth does not connote a flat folded square like a table napkin, but a ball of cloth bearing the appearance of being rolled around an object that was no longer there. The wrappings were in position where the body had lain, and the head cloth was where the head had been, separated from the others by the distance from the armpits to the neck. The shape of the body was still apparent in them, but the flesh and bone had disappeared.

The odd condition of the hollow linen wrappings still in the same shape of a body did not suggest someone had quickly stolen the body. Something else very strange had occurred.

Finally, John joined Peter inside the tomb, “and he saw and he believed” (John 20:8). In this instance, John used yet a third word, *eidon*, which means to perceive with understanding. In other words, he saw the wrappings, and he “got it.” Everything fell into place. The answer to the enigma was that Jesus had risen, passing through the grave clothes, which He left undisturbed as a silent proof that death could not hold Him, nor material bonds restrain Him. I like to think that John turned to Peter and whispered, “He’s alive!”

Whatever else may have happened or been said between John and Peter at the tomb that morning, “...he went home marveling at what had happened.” Luke 24:12

Thaumazon.

Peter kept marveling at what he saw. In the days following the moments at the empty tomb, Jesus appeared to Peter, the others, and to over 500 additional followers before He finally ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven. In the video, this part of the story had not yet happened, but it would soon enough. Regardless, after

a few weeks had passed for Peter, he still was in awe and in a state of perpetual wonder over what he had seen and experienced that first Easter Sunday morning.

What about you? How will your life remain changed a few weeks from now because of what you are experiencing this Easter weekend? Peter never got over the resurrection. What does Jesus' resurrection that has been described as the fulcrum upon which all of time pivots have to do with the way you will live a few hours from this moment...a few days from now...a few weeks from this weekend...a few years in the future?

When the disciples first heard the news that Jesus had risen, "these words seemed to them an idle tale." Luke 24:11

Is this good news story of Easter an idle tale to you...a holiday ritual of the spring...a time to get together with family and appease everybody with a few moments inside a church as part of the pageantry of the day? Or...is this reality of Jesus' resurrection, leaving an empty tomb of defeated death a life-changing, *thaumazon* moment you still will be marveling at a few weeks from now like Peter was in the video? Has the resurrection reality turned your upside-down life, right-side-up, once again in such a way that nothing about your existence ever can be business as usual?

What if the place you find yourself at this moment on this Easter weekend becomes one of those significant and memorable places where you always remember as a pivotal point in your life? What if when you think about the resurrection and empty tomb from this day forward, the place you hear this message and experience the worship of Jesus on this Easter always reminds you of the place you are in right now?

Places are tied to memorable moments in time. A distinguished professor of the Bible and seasoned guide to the Holy Land named Dr. Charles Dyer made these remarks about significant places where the Easter story takes place. He said, "My favorite spot in Jerusalem is not the Via Dolorosa or the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, or even the hill often called Gordon's Calvary. These are special, they are meaningful, and they're haunting in the spiritual hold they've had on generations of pilgrims. But the spot that excites me most is the Garden Tomb and the simple sign that hangs on its door. It reads, "He is not here – for He is risen."

We don't worship the grave. We worship the Son of God, who arose from the grave! Places are important because they remind us of the reality of the events that occurred there. But always remember our hope rests in a living Savior, not a cold slab of limestone that once served as the temporary resting place for His human body. May this reality be something we continue to marvel at as we worship Jesus this Easter...and each day moving forward. Because something marvelous happened then that causes us to continue marveling today:

He is risen! He is risen indeed!