

## **The Worship of God**

April 20, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday

First Baptist Church

Gainesville, Florida

*\*\*Please stand as you are able*

*Pre-Worship begins at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary*

**Choral Introit**

**Sanctuary Choir**

**Welcome to Worship**

**Pastor Ray Johnson**

**Call to Worship and Invocation**

**Pastor Lynn Williams**

Let us share in the joy of the empty tomb:

**He is not there! He is risen!**

Let us proclaim with the disciples:

**We have seen the risen Lord!**

He was dead, and behold, He is alive for forever and ever.

**Because he lives, we also will live.**

Jesus Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**\*\*Hymn of Joy #270**

***Christ the Lord is Risen Today***

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavn's, and earth, reply: Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!

Christ hath opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

## Litany of the Cross

Pastor Ray

Pastor: Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." In the name of Jesus, we pray:

**Church: Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow you.**

Pastor: You stood before Pontius Pilate, your life condemned, your word rejected, your innocence ignored:

**Church: Keep us from rejecting your word of truth and salvation.**

Pastor: You carried your cross on the wounded stripes of your back, for love of us and for all the world.

**Church: Help us to bear our cross, for love of you and for love of others.**

Pastor: The weight of your cross was the weight of our sins which make us stumble and fall.

**Church: In our weakness, we turn to you for strength.**

Pastor: Although you suffered, you still reached out to care for your mother.

**Church: May our cross-bearing never keep us from caring for our families.**

Pastor: As you struggled to bear your cross to Calvary, a passerby was drafted to help you.

**Church: Make us as willing as Simon to bear the burdens of those in need.**

Pastor: Others also took risks to comfort you.

**Church: Strengthen our faith to take loving risks for our needy brothers and sisters.**

Pastor: Sin weighed heavily upon you as you stumbled along the way.

**Church: Forgive us, Lord, for the sins which make us fall.**

Pastor: Your suffering under the cross caused the women of Jerusalem to weep.

**Church: Make our suffering in life a share in your suffering.**

Pastor: The full burden of our sin crushed you mightily to the earth.

**Church: Do not forsake us in our falling, but bring us to repentance and faith.**

Pastor: Stripped and jeered, you endured humiliation without complaint.

**Church: Humble us in our work and daily lives.**

Pastor: Nailed to the cross, you took your place among the condemned.

**Church: Take your place beside us sinners, and bring us through faith to the Paradise of God.**

Pastor: When your sacrifice was complete, you handed your life to the Father, and he did not forsake you.

**Church: Keep us close to your cross and death, now and at the hour of our death.**

Pastor: Faithful friends and loving women took loving care of your lifeless body.

**Church: Turn the darkness of death into the brightness of day for those we love.**

Pastor: In the tomb you were laid, but from the tomb you arose.

**Church: Be the Lord of the resurrection for us and for all the baptized.**

Pastor: Whenever we gaze upon this cross, a symbol of the depth and breadth of the love of the Father for His children, may we see the miracle of its many graces for all of creation:

**Church: The Holy Cross whereon the Lamb of God was offered; the Holy Cross the Hope of Christians; the Holy Cross the pledge of the resurrection of the dead;**

Pastor: May we give witness to the Cross which is the Guide of the blind, the Way of those who have gone astray, the Staff of the lame, the Consolation of the poor, the Restraint of the powerful, the Destruction of the proud;

**Church: May the Cross offer us assurance that in the Cross of Jesus we find Refuge of sinners, Trophy of victory over Hell, Hope of the hopeless, Star of the mariner, Harbor of the wrecked, Rampart of the besieged, Father of orphans, Defense of widows, Counsel of the just, Judge of the wicked, and Rest of the afflicted, the Safeguard of childhood, the Last Hope of the aged, Light of those who sit in darkness;**

Pastor: In this sacred space may we proclaim the Cross that was Heralded by prophets, preached by apostles, Glory of martyrs, Study of the Desert Fathers, Joy of the saints, Foundation of the Church, Salvation of the world, Bread of the hungry, Fountain of those who thirst, and Clothing of the naked.

**All: Loving Jesus, for the sake of your cross and passion, we are justified in faith, washed cleaned of our sins by baptism and repentance, and made one with God. We thank you for your cross and for the depths of your love for us. Help us to bear our cross in the world and follow you until you bring us into your heavenly kingdom; here you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*\*Hymn of Gratitude (Tune: #303)      *I Know that My Redeemer Lives***

I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What joy this blest assurance gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my everlasting Head!

He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives exalted, throned above;  
He lives to rule His church in love.

He lives to bless me with His love;  
He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed;  
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Savior, still the same;  
What joy this blest assurance gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives.

**Offertory Prayer**

**Sandra Sharron, Deacon**

