

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

31 March 2024

Guess Who Came to Church This Morning?

Text: "Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lamp stands, and in the midst of the lamp stands one like a son of man." *Rev. 1:12*

Text: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them". *Matt. 18:20*

This morning is the Christian Churches worship celebration of the love of God toward mankind or all people, or all you all.

Do you hold your own worship services? I hope so.

And it is so easy now for such wonderful worship music is available to us on the web.

And wonderful preaching is there also.

Get a good system and crank-it-up and fill your home and life with praise!

We learned of the power of praise music with Heather.

We kept her alive over a weekend with praise music and scripture reading.

There is nothing better or more powerful!

Today is our Praise The Lord Morning of Mornings.

For He is alive, I have seen the Lord!

This is Easter Sunday.

Our Family of God has gathered as we do on Sunday Mornings.

We, the family of God are here, but God is with us also.

God inhabits the praises of His People.

If you want to feel God with you, Praise Him.

This day we celebrate the empty tomb.

By His blood he paid the price of our sin.

By His resurrection, he conquered death, once and for all time.

There are people in church today that do not attend every Sunday.

They know the significance of the empty tomb.

The cross and the empty tomb are the hope of the world.

I should say the hope of every person in the world.

How sad that so many do not know of their hope.

If you know someone who only goes to church once a year, this is the Sunday to choose.

Christmas is more fun, presents and all, but today is the celebration of the Love of God for all people.

We come to Praise God for His Love for Creation.

God so Loved the World that he . . . Saved it.

Redeemed it.

Paid the price by His Son that all could come to Him in a loving intimate relationship.

We see death as the end for it is the end of the life we know.

But this Sunday death is the beginning.

The beginning of life for anyone who will believe that Jesus was the Christ; the Son of the Living God and was crucified for our sin and was raised from the dead to sit at the right hand of the Father. Forever assisting all who believe in him as their Lord and Savior.

Now that is worth celebrating.

Easter tells us that love is stronger than hate and that in God's heart life is stronger than death.

Today we recognize that Easter is what gave to us a living Christ, who is to be with us in our hearts all of the time; and he is to be with us in a special way when we come together for worship.

He made that promise to his disciples when he said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them".

As the years stretched into decades following the resurrection of our Lord, some people became disillusioned and even depressed; this happened particularly as they experienced persecution and great suffering because of their loyalty to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

The book of Revelation was given to John, the beloved apostle, while he was in exile on the Isle of Patmos.

He records, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day" and there came to the eye of his soul a vision of the living Christ: "in the midst of the lamp stands one like a son of man".

The word translated "in the midst" is the same word found in *Matthew 18:20*.

We need to recognize and respond to the promise of this living Lord to meet with his people when they come together for prayer, praise, proclamation, and the purification that comes through confession.

Have you experienced the presence of the living Lord in this service today?

He is here, just as he promised.

May God grant you ears to hear and eyes to see the spiritual reality of his presence.

Our Lord is alive from the dead.

Jesus is not merely a historical figure to whose great deeds we look back with admiration.

He is alive, and we call him Master.

He is alive and his authority over death and the grave.

We speak of him as one who was, but he is also the one who is.

His residence on the earth was only one part of his existence.

His life did not begin in Bethlehem, nor did it conclude when he died on the cross.

He is the Living One.

The Great I AM.

John saw our Lord in the midst of the churches.

In the person of the Holy Spirit, he came to abide with us and within us.

He is not removed by an immeasurable space from where we are living and laboring.

He is in the midst of us, quite near to us; he is accessible every hour.

He can observe our every action.

In the fullest sense, he is with us.

John saw Jesus in the midst of the churches as the ruling Lord.

He is described in terms that emphasize his sovereignty.

During his earthly ministry he exercised authority over disease, the demonic, death, and natural events.

Today we need to recognize the sovereignty of our Lord who manifested himself as love, and we should become the channels for that love to reach others.

Our living Lord came to church today.

As we read the seven letters to the churches in Asia Minor that John wrote after his vision of the Lord, we can discover the purpose Christ has for coming to church today.

Christ came to church to commend us.

Christ wants to commend you in every area in which you are seeking to do good.

He wants to affirm you and encourage you.

He sees and knows about your faithfulness and endurance, your generosity, kindness, and helpfulness.

Christ came to church today to correct us.

He wants to correct us, not condemn us.

"God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

All of us need to make adjustments in our attitudes, ambitions, and actions.

Jesus wants to help us do so.

Christ came to church to cleanse us.

From time to time, Jesus not only offered forgiveness, but granted forgiveness to those who came making confession.

Every time we come to God's house, we need to do some heart searching and put forth a sincere

effort to confess and turn for our every sin.
Jesus is more eager that we experience the joy of cleansing than we realize.
Christ came to church to complain.
Though he came to complain, he is not a complainer.
He complains if we fail to be our best.
He complains if we disobey God or mistreat others.
He has a right to exercise authority in our lives, and he wants to use us for the glory of God.
Christ came to church to comfort us.
Some of us are greatly discouraged today. Some of us are lonely.
Some of us are experiencing the pain of grief.
Jesus Christ will comfort us today if we will listen to him.
Christ came to church to commission us.
He has work for us to do, ministries for us to fulfill.
A needy world needs to know about the love that took our Savior to the cross and the power that raised him from the dead.
Yes, Jesus Our Christ, came to church today.
He wants each of us to trust him more and to enjoy the joy of his living in the midst of us.
He wants to increase the gifts of ministry in each of us.
He wants us to continue his work on earth.
The living Christ has been in our midst today.
He will go with us when we leave.
It is our place to recognize him, respond to him, and let him be in us all he is able to be for us and for others.
Release him and watch him work through you to continue his Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.